Mandelson reported to police over Epstein leaks

SEE PAGES 6&7

OUR STARS SKATING FOR OLYMPIC GLORY

SEE SPORT PAGES 52&53

DAILY EXPRESS

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BRITAIN

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On the first anniversary of the murder of Harvey Willgoose, 15, his mother calls for knife arches in all secondary schools to prevent further tragedy

LET'S PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM KNIFE HARM

EXCLUSIVE

BY **ALYCIA McNAMARA**

THE mother of a 15-year-old boy killed by a fellow pupil a year ago today is calling for mandatory knife arches in all schools and colleges.

A report into the fatal stabbing of tragic Harvey Willgoose warns that concerns about the killer were not acted upon effectively by the school.

His grieving mum Caroline, 52, said: "Harvey deserved better. All the children in that school deserved better.

"We'll always be angry by what happened to Harvey, but I'm determined to bring about change for the better."

The report today tells how killer Mohammed Umar Khan, also 15, had been investigated for carrying a knife and had brought a BB gun on a

TURN TO PAGE 4

Show presenter Trevor Noah

Trump threat to sue over joke by host

BY **LAURA HARDING**

DONALD Trump has threatened to sue Grammys host Trevor Noah after a joke he made about Jeffrey Epstein on stage.

The comedian said: "Song of the Year – that is a Grammy that every artist wants almost as much as Trump wants Greenland, which makes sense because Epstein's island is gone, he needs a new one to hang out with Bill Clinton."

The US president wrote: "It looks like I'll be sending my lawyers to sue this poor, pathetic, talentless, dope of an MC and suing him for plenty.

"Noah said, INCORRECTLY about me, that Donald Trump and Bill Clinton spent time on Epstein Island. WRONG!!!

"I can't speak for Bill, but I have never been to Epstein Island, nor anywhere close, and until tonight's false and defamatory statement, have never been accused of being there, not even by the Fake News Media.

"Noah, a total loser, better get his facts straight, and get them straight fast. Get ready Noah, I'm going to have some fun with you!"

Mr Trump is famously litigious and has taken legal action against the BBC over the editing of a Panorama programme.

He has also engaged in legal action with the New York Times, AP and the Wall Street Journal.

OLIVIA DEAN AND LOLA YOUNG

British giving

BRITISH singer Olivia Dean brought true glamour to the Grammys in a sparkling feathered gown as she accepted the award for Best New Artist.

Beating fellow Brit star Lola Young to the title, Olivia, 26, used her acceptance speech to plead for tolerance while American stars lashed out against hardline Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids taking place across the US.

Becoming emotional after scooping the award, the Man I Need singer said: "I'm up here as a granddaughter of an immigrant...I'm a product of bravery, and I think those people deserve to be celebrated. We're nothing without each other."

Lola Young, 25, won Best Pop Solo Performance for Messy while 1980s favourites The Cure won Best Alternative Music Album for Songs Of A Lost World and Best Alternative Music Performance for Changes.

Puerto Rican star Bad Bunny, who headlines the Super Bowl this weekend, became the first artist to win Album of the Year for a record sung entirely in Spanish.

The 31-year-old singer, real name Benito Martinez Ocasio, also scooped Best Musica Urbana Album, and said in his acceptance

Cher, and Joni, below; from top, Bad Bunny, Tyler the Creator, Sharon Osbourne with Yungblud, singer Billie Eilish with her brother Finneas

among Grammy winners cold shoulder to ICE

BY **CASEY COOPER-FISKE**

speech: "Before I say thanks to God, I'm going to say ICE out. We're not savages, we're not animals, we're not aliens – we are humans and we are Americans. The only thing that is more powerful than hate is love.

"So please, we need to be different, if we fight, we have to do it with love."

His plea was echoed by fellow stars including Billie Eilish, 24, who won Song of the Year for Wildflower.

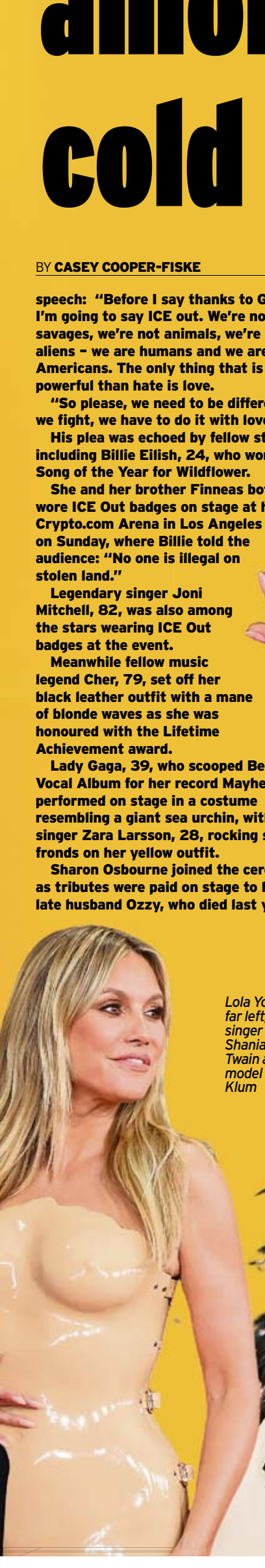
She and her brother Finneas both wore ICE Out badges on stage at he Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on Sunday, where Billie told the audience: "No one is illegal on stolen land."

Legendary singer Joni Mitchell, 82, was also among the stars wearing ICE Out badges at the event.

Meanwhile fellow music legend Cher, 79, set off her black leather outfit with a mane of blonde waves as she was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award.

Lady Gaga, 39, who scooped Best Pop Vocal Album for her record Mayhem, performed on stage in a costume resembling a giant sea urchin, with singer Zara Larsson, 28, rocking similar fronds on her yellow outfit.

Sharon Osbourne joined the ceremony as tributes were paid on stage to her late husband Ozzy, who died last year.



Lola Young, far left, singer Shania Twain and model Heidi Klum

Olivia with trophy. Right, from top, Zara, Sabrina Carpenter, Lady Gaga

FROM PAGE ONE

school trip in 2024, yet staff had "failed to investigate further, complete a risk assessment or put a safety plan in place".

Two months later, an axe was also found in Khan's bag.

Harvey had started avoiding classes amid fears about other pupils carrying knives at All Saints Catholic High School in Sheffield.

Caroline said it was "devastating" to read the findings of the review commissioned by St Clare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, which runs the school.

She said: "To see in black and white the chances there were to step in, the signs that were missed and how many opportunities there were to protect my boy is something I'll carry with me for the rest of my life."

Harvey was fatally stabbed by his former friend Mohammed after a row between two other boys escalated on social media.

Teachers and paramedics tried to save Harvey after the horrifying lunchtime stabbing but the teenager was pronounced dead in hospital.

Khan was found guilty of murder at Sheffield crown court last year and sentenced to a minimum 16 years in prison.

The report published today finds that concerns which were raised about Khan carrying a knife and his escalating behaviours were not acted upon effectively by the school.

Caroline, 52, from Sheffield, told the Express she believes knife arches – portable walk-through security scanners similar to those in airports – would help save lives if they were installed at all secondary schools across the country.

She said: "Carrying a knife just seems to be the new thing that [children] seem to do now. They say it's for their protection, but they need to know that you put yourself in more danger by carrying a knife.

"Which is why I am campaigning for knife arches in all secondary schools and colleges. The world has changed."

Devastating

Caroline, who also has children Sophie, 28, and Lewis, 26, with husband Mark, is still struggling to process the devastating loss of her youngest child.

She said: "The longer it goes on, the worse it is. I don't think I've touched the surface yet. I'm trying to do things now to help these kids. I still think that I'm going to wake up and realise I've had this horrible dream."

She added: "I want our Harvey to be a legacy and change things, and I think that is starting to happen now.

"He had a short life, but I think he was put here for a reason."

Steve Davies, head of St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust, said "a number of robust measures" have been introduced and more would follow.

New measures included regular safeguarding meetings and a review of the system for recording knife-related incidents.

Harvey had been avoiding school due to knife fears.

The last time Caroline saw him alive, he asked her: "Are you proud of me, mum? I'm going to school on my own account." Caroline replied: "I am, love."

Hours later she received the devastating call from her mother-in-law, who told her something serious had happened.

When Caroline then rang Mark she said he was "screaming down the phone" telling her: "[Harvey's] been stabbed. He's been stabbed. It's serious."

A police car arrived and blue-lighted her to Northern General Hospital where Harvey was being treated.

But halfway there officers were told to head to Sheffield Children's Hospital and switch to normal speed.

Caroline thought this meant Harvey was on the mend.

But she was met at the hospital by medical staff who asked her to wait for the rest of the family. She picked up her phone and saw a social media post which read, "RIP Harvey" – which is how she learned her son had died. After asking staff if it was true, they confirmed it was. Caroline collapsed screaming.

She said: "The screams, the shrieks, were just horrendous." One week before the stabbing, there had been a fight between a friend of Harvey's and a friend of Khan's.

Days later, it spilled over on to the social media site Snapchat, popular with teenagers, with Harvey and Khan both being dragged into the row.

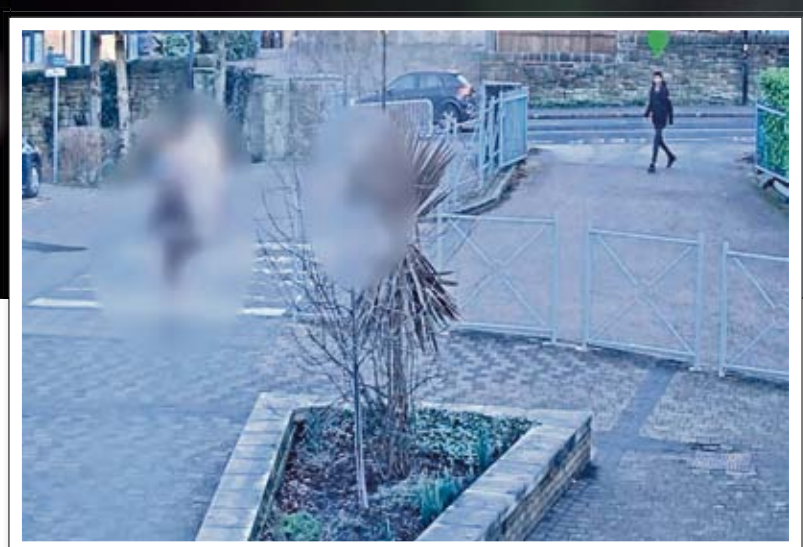
Harvey had messaged his father to say: "This is why I don't go to school because people are carrying knives."

Caroline blames social media platforms for the role they have played in her son's death.

She supports a social media ban for British youngsters similar to that recently implemented for under-16s in Australia,

Mother of fatally stabbed pupil, 15, calls for school knife detectors and more youth clubs

I want my Harvey's legacy to be one of change



Caroline marks a year since the horror; inset left, Khan arriving at school where he lashed out with the knife seen far left

OF TEENAGER'S MURDER

Picture: ANDY STENNING

'Carrying a knife just seems to be the new thing that children do now. The world has changed'

Harvey was fatally stabbed by his former friend after a row escalated on social media

warning that the time children spent on social media during the pandemic left them "locked up, without a voice and with no social skills".

The family have set up a youth and anti-knife charity called Harvey's Hub to provide more youth clubs for young people.

At the moment, they are looking for a permanent building to host events for children.

Caroline said her "cheeky chappie" son always invited his friends to their home and was a Sheffield United supporter who loved to organise football games with his pals.

She said: "He was a joy, he was a million miles an hour, he loved to be around people. If we were in a room he'd make sure everybody was involved, he could talk to anybody at any age and could make them laugh."

Bench

Caroline will spend today with her family and friends to remember Harvey together.

She said: "I miss him most when I see his friends. We have a bench outside our house where people can sit and remember Harvey.

"On Christmas Day, we'd gone out for dinner and his friends sent us a picture of them sitting on the bench. They're lost without him." South Yorkshire mayor Oliver Coppard said: "Harvey's death was a tragedy that no family or community should have to endure.

"My thoughts remain with Caroline and Mark, and all of Harvey's friends and family.

"This first anniversary is an important moment to remember Harvey and redouble our support for those turning unimaginable loss into action that protects other children.

"Across South Yorkshire, we are determined to tackle knife crime not just through enforcement, but through prevention, education and early intervention. Our Violence Reduction Unit is working with Learn Sheffield to provide schools with specialist knife crime education resources, helping young people understand the risks, consequences and pressures they may face.

"The work being led by families, charities and community organisations to educate children, create safe spaces and push for greater regulation over knife sales shows the power of community leadership.

"Everyone, from government to tech companies to local communities, has a role to play in keeping young people safe, including serious reflection on the influence of social media in shaping behaviour and exposing children to harm."

OPINION: PAGE 12

JOINING FORCES FOR GOOD

CAROLINE Willgoose has joined forces with Southport stabbings survivor Leanne Lucas to educate children in schools about knife crime.

Primary school teacher and yoga instructor Leanne, 36, was knifed five times by Axel Rudakubana on July 29, 2024 at a Taylor Swift dance workshop during the summer holidays.

Bebe King, six, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and Alice da Silva Aguiar, nine, were murdered in the attack while 10 others including Leanne, *right*, were injured.

She has since started the Let's Be Blunt campaign, calling for the introduction of rounded knives to make homes safer.

Caroline revealed that she supports Leanne's campaign and that the two women have been in touch, with Leanne reaching out to Caroline after seeing her social media posts on knife crime.

Caroline said: "We're going to work together to go into schools, educating children and pushing the campaign for rounded knives.

"I think we will have a lot of impact together. People know both of our stories and it's important to hear from people who have been impacted by knife crime."

DAMNING EMAILS

MPs demand police government secrets'

BY **STEPH SPYRO** and **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**

LORD Mandelson could face a police probe as emails appeared to show he leaked government secrets to Jeffrey Epstein while a minister.

The Metropolitan Police received formal requests from the SNP and Reform UK to investigate.

Robert Jenrick, one of Reform's ex-Tory MPs, told the House of Commons the former ambassador had "clearly broken the law and should be tried for his offences".

Commander Ella Marriott of the Met said last night: "We are aware of the further release of court documents in relation to Jeffrey Epstein.

"Following this, the Met has received a number of reports relating to alleged misconduct in a public office.

"The reports will be reviewed to determine if they meet the criminal threshold for investigation. As with any matter, if new and relevant information is brought to our attention we will assess it and investigate as appropriate."

Fresh emails released by the US department of justice suggest that Lord Mandelson informed sex offender Epstein about market-sensitive government decisions before they became public.

Sir Keir Starmer last night instructed the Cabinet Secretary to review all information available on his former US ambassador's contact with the late financier during his time as a minister and to report back "as a matter of urgency".

The Prime Minister also said Lord Mandelson, 72, should no longer sit in the House of Lords.

But Sir Keir does not have the power to strip him of his peerage.

In one exchange with Epstein, Lord Mandelson seemingly tipped off the US billionaire investor to a planned sale of government assets.

On another occasion, the then-business secretary confirmed plans for a €500billion bailout of the Eurozone amid the financial crisis, the documents suggest. Lord Mandelson also appeared to tell Epstein about Gordon Brown's plan to resign as PM, hours before it was confirmed to the British public.

And in 2009, during the financial crisis, Lord Mandelson appears to tell the boss of JP Morgan that he should "threaten" then-Chancellor Alastair Darling to force him to back down over plans to tax bankers' bonuses.

The email exchanges raise questions about whether Lord Mandelson may have committed misconduct in a public office by sending commercially sensitive government documents to Epstein.

At the time of the emails, Epstein had been convicted of child sex offences and served time in jail.

Reform UK said: "It is abundantly clear that Peter Mandelson has abused his position in office. It's now time the police do their job and properly investigate these shocking new revelations." Stephen Flynn, the SNP leader in Westminster, also wrote to Sir Mark Rowley, the Met commissioner, saying the "widespread allegations and the suspicion of criminal activity need to be urgently addressed. It is now essential a formal, criminal investigation is initiated by the Metropolitan Police."

Mr Brown, PM at the time of the alleged leak, yesterday demanded an investigation into the "disclosure of confidential and market sensitive information from the then business department during the financial crisis".

Adding to the stream of compromising revelations at the weekend, an image was released from the Epstein files showing Lord

Undated photo issued by US Department of Justice of Lord Mandelson, left, and paedophile financier with birthday cake

ANALYSIS

STEPH SPYRO
Deputy Political Editor

THE allegations facing Lord Mandelson represent one of the most politically explosive episodes to emerge from the latest tranche of documents from the Epstein files.

At their centre is the claim that the then minister shared confidential and commercially sensitive government material with Jeffrey Epstein, after the financier's conviction for child sex offences.

Emails released by the US Justice Department appear to show Mandelson forwarding internal briefings prepared for then PM Gordon Brown and discussing policy matters like bankers' bonuses and financial interventions during the global financial crisis.

The sensitivity of this period magnifies the seriousness of the alleged disclosures, particularly where market-moving information may have been involved. The nature of the documents raise "serious concerns" about his behaviour while a minister, MP Darren Jones told the Commons yesterday.

He also called it an "insult" against women and girls who have suffered because of Epstein.

Senior figures across the political spectrum have also called for police action against Mandelson.

The Cabinet Secretary's urgent review of "all accessible information" between Epstein and Mandelson also appears to be examining "potential breaches of the ministerial code".

Mandelson's reputation has been utterly destroyed

Despite the scale of the allegations, removing a peer remains legally complex and requires legislation that has not been used for over a century.

This has intensified calls for reform of the Lords' disciplinary framework to ensure accountability where serious misconduct is alleged.

Lord Mandelson has lost his post as UK ambassador to the US, lost his membership of the Labour Party and now risks losing his peerage.

With potentially millions more Epstein files still to be released from the US, it remains to be seen what fresh political explosions are to come.

But what's already clear is that Lord Mandelson's once glittering reputation has been utterly destroyed.

Peer's husband Reinaldo Avila da Silva yesteday

MP Tulip hit out at 'kangaroo court'

Siddiq handed Bangladesh jail sentence

BY **KATIE HARRIS**

LABOUR MP Tulip Siddiq has been sentenced to four more years in jail after being convicted of corruption in Bangladesh.

The ex-Treasury minister's aunt – former Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina – was also given a 10-year term in a corruption case involving a township project near the capital Dhaka.

Labour said it "cannot recognise" the judgment.

A spokesman added: "Highly regarded senior legal professionals have highlighted that Tulip Siddiq has not had access to a fair legal process and has never been informed of the details of charges against her, despite repeated requests to the Bangladeshi authorities."

Ms Siddiq lives in the UK and continues to represent her Hampstead and Highgate seat.

Ex-Attorney General Dominic Grieve and former Tory Justice Secretary Robert Buckland have criticised the handling of the case in Bangladesh.

After a similar case last year, which resulted in a two-year jail sentence, Ms Siddiq said that she had been tried by a "kangaroo court".

Fury on 'feeble' plan to reduce risky chemicals

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

PLANS to protect the nation from harmful PFAS "forever chemicals" have been branded "a roadmap to nowhere".

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said the substances were "one of the most pressing environmental challenges".

The chemicals are found almost everywhere because of their use in products such as non-stick pans, clothing, cosmetics and food packaging.

They contaminate water, soil, air and even remote environments.

But Chloe Alexander, of Wildlife and Countryside Link, said: "There are no binding phase-outs, no timetable for ending everyday uses for which affordable alternatives are already available, and no commitment to match the EU's proposed broad ban."

EXPRESS VOTE

Should Lord Mandelson be stripped of his peerage?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441
Calls cost 50p plus network access charge

Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
Texts cost 50p plus standard network rate

You must have the bill payer's permission. Vote closes at midnight tonight. The Daily Express may contact you by post, SMS and/or email with offers, goods or services that may be of interest to you. To stop receiving SMS messages text 'NSNOINFO' to the originating number. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

IN EPSTEIN FILES

investigate 'leaks of by Lord Mandelson

Lord Peter Mandelson is facing pressure to resign his peerage. Above, as the US ambassador with PM Keir Starmer in February last year

Mandelson in underpants next to a woman in a dressing gown.

Other documents among the millions released were bank statements from 2003 and 2004 which appeared to show accounts linked to Lord Mandelson received payments totalling £54,735 from the financier.

Epstein is also said to have paid for an osteopathy course for the peer's husband Reinaldo Avila da Silva.

Meanwhile, the government has been blasted by MPs for not bringing forward a bespoke bill that would strip Lord Mandelson of his peerage.

Minister of State Darren Jones told the Commons there was a backlog of disgraced peers needing to have honours revoked and the government's focus should be on reforming the peerages process to avoid individual legislation. Lord Mandelson, who is on a leave of absence from the upper chamber, could resign voluntarily. Responding to Mr Jones, Tory

'He has caused great embarrassment to this country'

Alex Burghart said it was "clearer than ever" that Lord Mandelson and Mr Epstein's relationship was built "not just on affection but on the transfer of money from Epstein to Mandelson's family and the transfer of info from Mandelson to Epstein. In some cases this was apparently market-sensitive info that Mandelson only received by dint of being a member of the Labour government."

He said the Cabinet Office investigation, confirmed by No10 yesterday, "should have happened long ago". Mr Burghart added: "In any case the investigation, alone, will not do. It is not enough to consider Mandelson's historic conduct.

"There also needs to be an investigation into his behaviour while he was our ambassador in Washington.

"Something went very badly wrong with this appointment. It has caused very great embarrassment to this country and it's time someone took responsibility."

Lord Mandelson was fired as the ambassador to Washington last September after details emerged of his continued contact with Epstein after the financier's guilty plea in 2008 to soliciting sex from a minor.

The peer resigned his Labour membership on Sunday and the party said he was facing a disciplinary process.

In his letter, he said he had no record or recollection of Epstein's alleged payments but did not wish to cause more embarrassment to Labour. Speaking after he resigned, he also gave an interview where he rejected as "risible" the suggestion that he might have given Epstein's views on banker bonus rules extra weight after the financier sent money for his husband's osteopath course.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Badenoch blasts Beijing trip

Kemi: All PM has to show is China doll

BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**

KEMI Badenoch blasted Keir Starmer's recent trip to China as "supine" and "short-termist".

The Tory leader accused him of coming back from Beijing "with next to nothing".

She tore into the PM at his first Commons outing since his return, claiming he was "pushed around" by the regime.

Mrs Badenoch said: "It is not the PM engaging with China that we take issue with, what we are criticising is his supine and short-termist approach. Apart from the Labubu doll in his suitcase – and I hope he's checked it for bugs – he has come back with next to nothing."

Sir Keir insisted that the trip yielded results for the economy and Britain's security.

Dan Norris in Commons

'MP Norris rearrested in sex probe'

BY **ROD MINCHIN**

AN independent MP has been rearrested on suspicion of sex offences, it is understood.

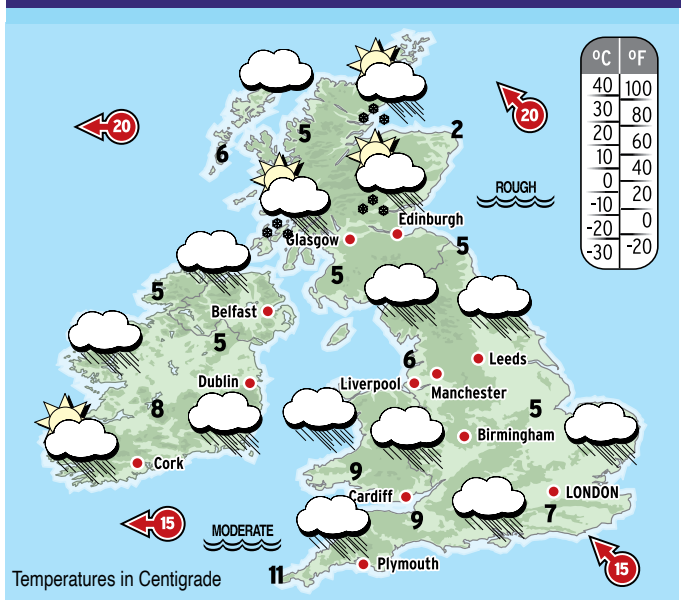
An unnamed man in his 60s – believed to be former Labour MP Dan Norris – was first held in April on suspicion of child sex offences, rape, child abduction and misconduct.

Police said they are no longer probing the child sex claims or abduction, but the man was further arrested on suspicion of rape against a second woman, sexual assault on a third, voyeurism and upskirting.

The independent MP for North East Someset, who denies the allegations, is on bail.

DX1ST

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Wet morning, cool wet evening

North West: Cloudy with snow expected, turning rather sleety later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 5C (41F).

Northern Ireland: Cloudy with showers at first and light rain later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 5C (41F).

Wales: Wet start, clearing to brighter skies later. Breezy with a chill in the air. High 7C (45F).

Midlands: Cloudy with sleet or possibly snow turning to rain. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 4C (39F).

North East/Yorks: Cloudy with snow expected, turning rather sleety later. Light winds. High 4C (39F).

Scotland: Cloudy with sleet in places. Turning overcast later. Breezy with a chill. High 5C (41F).

East Anglia: Cloudy and damp with patchy light rain or drizzle. Gentle southerly winds. High 5C (41F).

London/South East: Persistent wet conditions. Easing later. Gentle breezes. Chilly throughout. High 6C (43F).

South: Dull and grey with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Moderate northerly winds. High 7C (45F).

South West: Grey and wet with patchy light rain and drizzle expected. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Cloudy and damp with patchy light rain or drizzle. Brisk westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Very rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect persistent rain with easing winds. Cooler conditions will dominate. Dress warmly and carry an umbrella for any outdoor activities.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	WED min	WED max	THU min	THU max	FRI min	FRI max	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max
London	5	11	5	9	6	9	5	10	6	10	4	8
Belfast	5	6	4	7	4	5	4	6	5	7	3	6
Birmingham	4	8	3	7	4	6	5	8	4	8	3	7
Cardiff	5	9	4	8	5	7	5	9	5	9	3	8
Glasgow	4	6	3	8	3	6	3	6	4	7	2	7
Manchester	5	8	3	7	4	6	5	7	4	8	3	7
Newcastle	4	6	3	5	3	4	4	5	4	6	3	5
Norwich	4	9	3	5	5	6	5	8	4	8	3	6
Plymouth	7	10	7	10	7	10	6	10	7	10	4	9

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	0.39	5	6
Aberporth	0.0	0.00	2	8
Alnwick	0.0	0.04	1	6
Belfast	0.0	0.03	0	7
Birmingham	0.0	0.04	6	7
B'mouth	1.5	0.02	5	10
Bristol	0.0	0.06	5	8
Cardiff	0.0	0.00	4	8
Durham	0.0	0.02	3	6
Edinburgh	0.2	0.02	2	7
Glasgow	0.4	0.04	4	8
Hull	0.0	0.04	6	6
Ipswich	0.0	0.04	6	6
Leeds	0.0	0.04	5	6
Lincoln	0.0	0.00	6	6
London	0.0	0.25	7	8
Manchester	0.2	0.00	5	8
Oxford	0.0	0.02	6	8
S'hampton	0.9	0.10	6	9
St Andrews	0.0	0.05	2	6

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 7.05pm, sets: 8.22am
SUN rises London: 7.35am, sets: 4.53pm
Manchester rises: 7.50am, sets: 4.55pm
Last Quarter 09 February

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(2.41am), (3.02pm)
Liverpool	(-), (12.07pm)
Greenock	(1.29am), (1.21pm)
Dover	(-), (12.14pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Sunday) **Warmest:** Scilly: St Marys Airport, 11c (51f). **Coldest:** Katesbridge, -1c (30f). **Wettest:** Wight: St Catherines Point, 1.54ins. **Sunniest:** Camborne, 3.5hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	5.06pm-8.07am
Birmingham	4.57pm-7.44am
Bristol	5.03pm-7.43am
Glasgow	4.54pm-8.05am
London	4.53pm-7.34am
Manchester	4.55pm-7.48am
Newcastle	4.47pm-7.51am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Sleet	2C/36F	Amsterdam	Rain	8C/46F
Brussels	Rain	8C/46F	Brussels	Fair	11C/52F
Dublin	Rain	7C/45F	Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Sleet	3C/37F	Frankfurt	Fair	7C/45F
Geneva	Showers	9C/48F	Geneva	Fair	8C/46F
Lisbon	Thunder	13C/55F	Lisbon	Rain	15C/59F
Madrid	Rain	9C/48F	Madrid	Rain	12C/54F
Paris	Rain	11C/52F	Paris	Sunny	12C/54F
Rome	Showers	15C/59F	Rome	Thunder	14C/57F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Fair	4	39	Hong Kong	Sunny	18	64	New York	-	-8	18
Athens	Fair	13	55	Istanbul	Rain	6	43	Nice	Rain	8	46
Barcelona	Cloudy	11	52	Jersey	Cloudy	7	45	Nicosia	Shwrs	19	66
Berlin	Cloudy	-10	14	Larnaca	Sunny	20	68	Perth	Sunny	39	102
Budapest	Snow	0	32	Las Palmas	Fair	22	72	Prague	Cloudy	-4	25
Cairo	Sunny	21	70	Los Angeles	Fair	23	73	Singapore	Cloudy	31	88
Cape Town	Shwrs	25	77	Luxor	Sunny	27	81	Stockholm	Snow	-6	21
Casablanca	Rain	12	54	Malaga	Rain	10	50	Sydney	-	20	68
Corfu	Shwrs	14	57	Mallorca	Fair	17	63	Tel Aviv	Sunny	22	72
Dublin	Cloudy	8	46	Malta	Sunny	16	61	Tenerife	Fair	22	72
Dubrovnik	Shwrs	11	52	Melbourne	Sunny	19	66	Toronto	Sunny	-9	16
Faro	Fair	15	59	Miami	Sunny	7	45	Tunis	Sunny	17	63
Florence	Cloudy	6	43	Moscow	Snow	-20	-4	Venice	Fair	7	45
Gibraltar	Rain	12	54	Nairobi	Sunny	24	75	Vienna	Cloudy	0	32
Guernsey	Cloudy	7	45	New Delhi	Fair	15	59	Warsaw	Sunny	-12	10

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Labour cosying up to EU bosses

Backdoor alert after trade talks

BY **KATIE HARRIS**
Senior Political Correspondent

LABOUR came under fire for continuing to cosy up to Brussels after another round of trade talks yesterday.

EU Commissioners Valdis Dombrovskis and Maros Sefcovic were welcomed to No 11 for trade and economy meetings by Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Business Secretary Peter Kyle.

But the Tories warned that Sir Keir Starmer wants to "take us into the EU by the backdoor".

Shadow Foreign Secretary Dame Priti Patel said: "His Cabinet are competing with each other over who can be the most pro-Europe.

"Labour are desperate for someone or something to blame for the disastrous impact of their economic incompetence, and so they are pointing the finger at Brexit and trying to reopen old wounds. It isn't Brexit that has wrecked our economy and made us weaker on the international stage – it's this disastrous government."

Sir Keir's official spokesman said closer ties with the EU was a "priority" for the PM. Asked what the government hoped to get out of the meeting, he added: "I think we have always been clear that a closer relationship with the EU was a priority...

"The Prime Minister's approach throughout has been on making Britain a trusted international partner again and that's in order to deliver real economic and security results for Britons."

Rachel Reeves beams as she welcomes EU's Valdis Dombrovskis

EXPRESS CRUSADE
GIVE US A PROPER BREXIT

The Daily Express has launched our Give Us A Proper Brexit crusade ahead of the 2016 referendum's 10th anniversary.

It calls for Britain to leave the European Convention on Human Rights, slash red tape for businesses and enforce a 12-mile exclusion zone around the UK for British fishing vessels only.

It is backed by leading Brexiteers including Kemi Badenoch, Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson.

Benefits cap axe to gift unemployed families £25k

BY **KATIE HARRIS**

LABOUR scrapping the two-child benefit cap will hand £25,000 to the average jobless family, Tory analysis shows.

It will cost taxpayers £14billion over five years, with almost half going to out-of-work families – an average of £25,000 per workless household in that period.

The Tories plan to vote against the legislation when it returns to the Commons today.

Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Helen Whately said: "Work is being punished while worklessness is rewarded."

Chancellor Rachel Reeves said the cap – brought in by the Tories in 2017 – would be axed in her autumn Budget.

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch vowed to reinstate it if her party wins back power.

Reform would ditch the cap for families with both parents born in the UK, in full-time work.

Labour said: "The welfare bill rocketed by nearly £60bn under the Tories. They're delusional to think anyone would take advice from them.

"Labour is lifting nearly half a million kids out of poverty."

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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Serial shop thief returns to jail days after release

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

ONE of the UK's most prolific shoplifters is back in jail just days after being released from prison after he stole almost £1,000 worth of butter and food.

Drug user Colin French had been free for just 24 hours when he returned to pilfering.

The serial offender, 27, who has 106 offences for theft alone, was given a Criminal Behaviour Order in September last year, which banned him from Sainsbury's.

The Daily Express Stop The Shoplifters crusade has shone a spotlight on the £2billion crimewave and is demanding tougher action.

A court heard how last month French was locked up for shop theft and assault. However, just days after his release, the career crook was back up to his old tricks and in his old stomping ground.

In just 24 hours, French targeted the same Newcastle Sainsbury's store four times. Easily identified from CCTV by

Colin French stole groceries

both staff and the police, French, of no fixed address, was arrested and appeared before city magistrates where he was locked-up for eight weeks after pleading guilty to four counts of shop theft and four of breaching a CBO.

Glenda Beck, prosecuting, said French, who owes £7,300 in unpaid fines, was banned from Sainsbury's in September last year for two years under the terms of a CBO.

She said: "Witnesses confirm the defendant enters Sainsbury's on January 26 and 27 and makes off with items, the total value was £791."

Alanna Wesencraft, defending, said French had been attacked because he owed money to drug dealers.

She added: "They located him. He entered Sainsbury's. He knew it would result in him being taken back before the court, so it would get them off his back."

Women murdered by Wright in 2006 six-week spree, left to right, Tania Nicol, Gemma Adams, Anneli Alderton, Paula Clennell and Annette Nicholls

'Suffolk Strangler' admits sixth killing

Monster finally confesses to 1999 murder of Victoria, 17

BY **PAUL JEEVES**
Crime Editor

SUFFOLK strangler Steve Wright yesterday dramatically confessed to murdering schoolgirl Victoria Hall in 1999.

The monster unexpectedly admitted killing the 17-year-old, years before he launched a murder spree that left five other young women dead.

At the start of a trial at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to slaying A-level student Victoria after snatching her off the street in Felixstowe as she walked home from a nightclub.

Seven years later the serial killer stalked Ipswich's red-light area, murdering five sex workers in six weeks.

Police long suspected he had committed further murders.

Wright also admitted attempting to kidnap Emily Doherty, 22, in the same area as Victoria 24 hours earlier.

It is the first time one of Britain's most notorious killers has admitted responsibility for a crime, though he showed no emotion in court.

Wright refused to stand for the Old Bailey judge but then admitted his guilt during a nine-minute hearing.

Confession

Relatives gasped and wept as they heard the dramatic confession. He will be sentenced on Friday.

One-time QE2 ship steward Wright is serving a whole-life sentence at high-security Long Lartin Prison, Worcs, for murdering Tania Nicol, 19; Gemma Adams, 25; Anneli Alderton, 24; Paula Clennell, 24 and Annette Nicholls, 29, before he was snared by police days before Christmas 2006.

Despite overwhelming forensic evidence linking him to the sex workers, whose bodies he dumped in a stream and woods, he denied responsibility.

Victoria's body was discarded naked in the same stream as two of his later victims.

Police are now probing if Wright had other victims, including a potential fresh probe over missing estate agent Suzy Lamplugh, 25, with whom he previously worked on the QE2.

Wright was on a long list of suspects for Victoria's murder after his car was found to have a partial number plate match for the vehicle used in Miss Doherty attempted abduction.

However, he was not arrested and

Victoria Hall, 17, was murdered by Wright, above, after an evening at a nightclub with a friend, below; inset, Victoria's mum Lorinda, who died last year

bungling police spent £2million prosecuting businessman Adrian Bradshaw who was at the same nightclub as Victoria before she vanished on her way home in the early hours of September 19, 1999.

Her parents had expected her to take a taxi home, but she ran out of money and walked the two miles with pal Gemma Algar to their homes in Trimley St Mary. They went their separate ways at 2.30am, just 300 yards from Victoria's home.

After they parted, Gemma said she heard a scream but thought someone was messing around. Neighbours said they were awakened by horrifying screams and the sound of a "throaty exhaust" before a car screeched away.

After a five-day search, Victoria's body was found 25 miles away in Creeting St Peter.

She had been asphyxiated, but not sexually assaulted.

Police focused on Mr Bradshaw, 27, after locals pointed out his Porsche had a noisy exhaust. He was charged in 2000 after forensic scientists found 10 grains of mud on the accelerator pedal. But jurors at his trial took just 90 minutes to acquit him after a geologist revealed the sample could have come from anywhere in East Anglia.

In July 2021, Wright was arrested in prison and interviewed, but he was not charged with Victoria's murder until 2024 when forensic advances finally established a DNA link.

Victoria's mum Lorinda died aged 70 late last year without seeing her daughter's killer face justice.

Suffolk Assistant Chief Constable Alice Scott said: "Despite today's conviction, Victoria's family will continue to live with the trauma of having Victoria ripped away from them at such a young age."

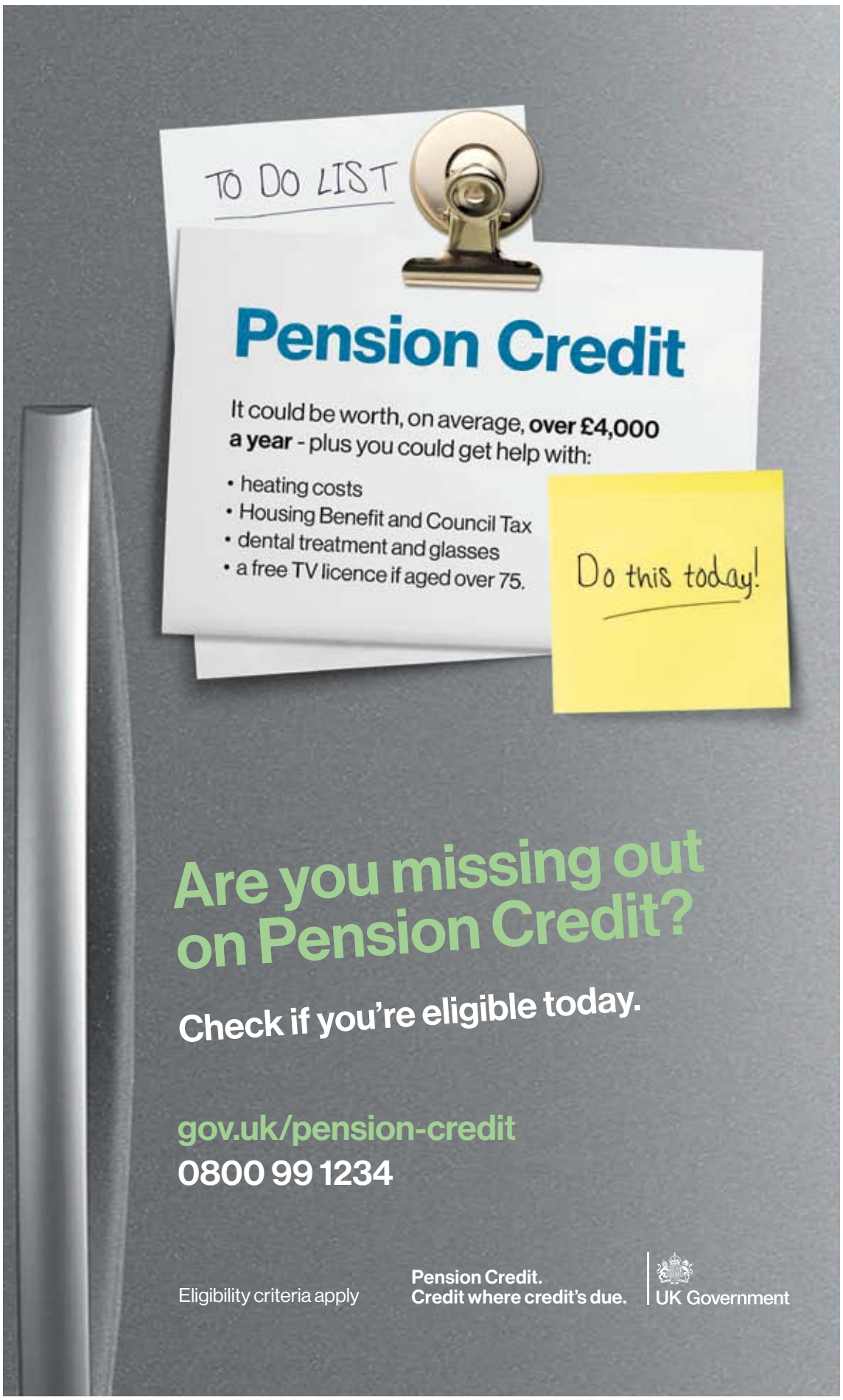
Doctors back more strikes

RESIDENT doctors will continue industrial action for another six months in their row over pay and training.

Some 93% voted to keep striking on a 53% turnout, the British Medical Association said. The union urged the government to act to prevent further disruption.

The Department for Health said: "On top of a 28.9% pay rise over the last three years, this government is working to address issues including fast-tracking legislation to prioritise home-grown graduates for speciality training places."

Blaze after ship hits tanker. Left, impact and Mark Angelo Pernia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Captain guilty of killing crew member, 38, in tanker crash

BY **EMILY PENNINK**

A RUSSIAN sea captain has been found guilty of killing a crew member when his ship crashed into an oil tanker off the coast of Yorkshire.

Vladimir Motin was on sole watch duty when the Solong collided with the Stena Immaculate anchored near the Humber Estuary at 9.47am on March 10 last year.

Mark Angelo Pernia, 38, who was working on the Solong's bow, died in the resulting fire, although his body was never recovered.

The Filipino family man had a five-year-old but he never met his second child, born two months after his death.

An Old Bailey jury deliberated for eight hours before yesterday finding Motin, 59, guilty of manslaughter by gross negligence.

He showed no emotion as he heard the verdict and was remanded into custody for sentencing on Thursday.

Motin was convicted of gross negligence manslaughter

It was a "miracle" the collision between the two ships in the North Sea did not lead to more fatalities and an environmental disaster, according to the detective who led the investigation.

Det Chief Supt Craig Nicholson of Humberside Police described the victim as "very much a family man, very much loved by his family in the Philippines". The officer added after the verdict: "His loss is felt tremendously by his family.

"It's such a simple, senseless tragedy which could have been avoided."

Mr Nicholson said Motin was a "vastly experienced sea captain" who has "spent his entire life at sea" but his differing accounts of how the collision happened meant investigators did not find his explanations plausible.

The officer said the captain, from St Petersburg, claimed he knew he was on a collision course from 15 nautical miles out, but did not take action until a mile away, telling the jury he tried in vain to disengage the autopilot. Mr Nicholson said: "He took no action whatsoever to avoid that collision."

And he pointed out that Motin deactivated the warning system that alerts the crew if the person on watch is inactive, not present or unconscious. The captain had the key for that system in his pocket.

The court previously heard the Solong left Grangemouth, Scotland, at 9.05pm on March 9 bound for Rotterdam in Holland. With a crew of 14, it was carrying mainly alcoholic spirits and hazardous substances, including empty but unclean sodium cyanide containers.

The Stena Immaculate, with 23 on board, was transporting JetA1 high-grade aviation fuel from Greece to the UK. With both ships laden with flammable cargo, the danger in the event of a collision was obvious, jurors were told.

Julia Faure Walker, prosecuting, said: "There were no mechanical difficulties on the Solong. The rudder was working. The only thing not working was the man in the dock."

Star models classic retro styles for the magazine

Pictures: COURTESY OF ELLE UK/ALANA O'HERLIHY

Expression is all the rage for Lily

BY **JENNY GARNSWORTHY**

LILY Allen looks effortlessly cool but admits she was raging when recording the acclaimed album she calls a "really angry record".

The singer, 40, was "terrified" of the reaction ahead of releasing West End Girl, written after the breakdown of her marriage to US actor David Harbour.

But the comeback star's first album in seven years received rave reviews and is up for a Brit award later this month. She said: "I was processing things happening at quite a traumatic period of time. It's a really angry record. More about rage towards other people. It's not really about self-reflection."

Posing in retro and classic styles for Elle UK, she told the magazine it was good to get her feelings out, adding: "Rage is powerful and necessary."

● ***Elle UK's March issue is on sale on Thursday***

Looking back in anger suits Lily Allen as she poses for Elle UK's photoshoot

Palin: I could not say no...

Monty Python's delight at comedy role

BY **ZARA ZUBEIDI**

SIR Michael Palin says he has been coaxed out of a theatrical hiatus by the one writer he can not say no to, Mackenzie Crook.

The Monty Python legend last worked with the actor-turned-director on his 2019 reboot of Worzel Gummidge.

And the pair have reunited for Small Prophets, Sir Michael's first major comedy series since Ripping Yarns in the late 1970s.

He said: "I admire [Mackenzie] as much as anyone doing television at the moment. I love the skill with which he underplays things to great effect… He writes in a wonderfully quiet and very convincing way." In the new BBC sitcom, Sir Michael plays Brian who teaches his son Michael (Pearce Quigley) how to create Homunculi, miniature artificial humans who can predict the future.

Mackenzie has written and directed the chaotic caper, also playing Michael's far-from-popular boss Gordon.

And although Sir Michael was delighted to be offered the gig in his 80s, he admits remembering his lines was a tad more troublesome than it was in his younger years.

He told Radio Times: "As you get older, you do forget the most obvious things – names, places – I sometimes find that tricky.

"But if I'm going filming in Venezuela, say, I'll know everything about Venezuela for a bit.

"My children keep saying, 'Careful, careful', but they're being overcautious.

"In the show, Brian is not cautious and likes doing mad things, like trying to ride a motorbike aged nearly 90."

Like Brian, Sir Michael, 82, has long had an adventurous side, roaming the planet for his myriad travel shows since the 1980s. But he says the chance to go back to his first love was unmissable.

Sir Michael said: "I really enjoy acting. I've done A Fish Called Wanda, The Death of Stalin and GBH, which were wonderful, but they don't come along often.

"What Mackenzie writes is very special. I enjoy his humour, his understanding of people.

"There was no question of saying, 'No, I can't do this, I'm busy travelling'."

● *Small Prophets starts next Monday at 10pm on BBC Two.*

Sir Michael Palin and Mackenzie Crook

DAILY EXPRESS

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Harvey's legacy must be schools safe from blades

NOTHING can bring back Harvey Willgoose, the football-mad teenager murdered during his school lunch break.

But mum Caroline is doing what she can to ensure other parents don't suffer the same grief she has had to endure.

Her request is a simple one. She wants knife arches installed in schools to detect weapons like the one used to kill her son.

Her campaign has made progress, and a number of the devices are now in place. But there is a long way to go before every pupil in Britain is protected.

One year after Harvey's tragic death, she is renewing her plea for measures to reassure parents and pupils that classrooms are safe.

The Express is supporting her campaign, because it could save young lives.

Caroline has spoken about her love for her "cheeky chappie" son, and about the shock and horror she felt upon learning of his death.

She hopes Harvey's legacy will be the introduction of better security in every school.

We're sure that her words will be heard by the powers-that-be, from headteachers to local authorities and Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson.

In Harvey's name, we should introduce knife arches in all UK secondary schools and colleges, to keep knives out and prevent further tragedies.

Mandelson should quit

PETER Mandelson's political career is over and his reputation is now in tatters. He was a towering figure of British politics in the 1990s, helping to create the "New Labour" machine that propelled Tony Blair to power.

Lord Mandelson made a surprise comeback as Gordon Brown's right-hand man when Mr Brown, once his sworn enemy, became Prime Minister.

And he received another plum job under Sir Keir Starmer, as the UK's ambassador to the United States, rubbing shoulders with world leaders including US President Donald Trump.

Now police are reviewing allegations of misconduct in public office, after he was accused of leaking sensitive information to paedophile financier Jeffrey Epstein.

Gordon Brown is one of those demanding answers.

Lord Mandelson's friendship with Epstein was shocking enough, but the latest claims have horrified his remaining friends at Westminster.

Sir Keir has said that he should no longer sit in the House of Lords and in that, the Prime Minister has at last got something right.

Lord Mandelson should quit Parliament for good, and make it clear that he will no longer use his title.

Hail street star Connor

BECOMING a black cab driver in London is no easy task. Mastering The Knowledge, by memorising thousands of streets and landmarks, typically takes years.

So congratulations are due to Connor Dill, who is now the capital's youngest cabbie aged just 21.

Connor's not just an expert driver – he also has the gift of the gab. He's clearly on the road to a glittering career.

Daily threat to our children is in the palm of their hands

US free speech campaigner Charlie Kirk's murder was shared on UK social media

Daniel Kebede
Guest Columnist

TEACHERS across Britain can see the crossroads we are at when it comes to social media. We have a chance to become one of the first nations in Europe to protect our children from Big Tech – but the government's commitment to a consultation on raising the age of social media access is a slow response to a daily threat to their safety.

We know the tech companies are stealing childhoods. Our members in schools see this every day. Pupils' identities and attention are being manipulated by social media apps long before their GCSEs are even taken – feeding them extreme viewpoints and explicit content before their brains have had the chance to develop.

If an adult approached a child in the street to show them the sort of videos they are typically exposed to on a daily basis, they would be arrested – instead this content is beamed to them without consequence.

This drip feed of dangerous content is eroding the critical skills our children should be developing. Their ability to focus and concentrate in the classroom is harmed by loops of addictive, short-form videos. Their minds are hacked by companies that will do whatever they can to keep them compulsively scrolling in search of the next dopamine hit.

Night after night, children spend hours on smartphones, arriving in class exhausted and overstimulated. The social media platforms are designed to keep children hooked – the longer they stay online, the more data they generate, and the more profit is made. It's their education that pays the price.

BEYOND the school gate, the damage continues. Our kids don't play in the park after school, they go home, and scroll alone. They are losing real-life connections, and the ability to develop interpersonal skills and social-ise. A public health crisis is unfolding before our eyes, and parents and teachers need help to stop it.

Australia's social media ban for under-16s should be a wake-up call for British ministers. Becoming one of the first movers in Europe to restrict social media use for children would not just be pioneering, it would be widely supported.

Polling on behalf of our Big Tech's Little Victims campaign found more than 70% of Brits are in favour of raising the age of social media access to 16. Even older teenagers express support. They have seen the harm they were exposed to and ask why adults didn't stop it.

The tech companies claim they are helping our children connect with like-minded peers. The reality is they are pushing them into isolation and loneliness, warping their vision of real life. They are robbing them of wellbeing and contributing to a mental health crisis while exacerbating anxiety, depression, cyberbullying, harassment and radicalisation.

Big Tech has shown no interest in protecting children from extreme or harmful content. The power and wealth they gain from ensnaring this vulnerable group of consumers is too great for them to act responsibly.

Teachers widely reported in the autumn how pupils had seen Charlie Kirk's graphic assassination on social media. Our educators are expected to teach children who have witnessed murder on the walk to school. Yet violent or sexually explicit content is only half the battle. Teachers are reporting soaring misogyny in the classroom, driven by waves of content designed to be ever more extreme to generate attention.

These represent thoughtless attempts to manipulate children who are still developing their outlook on the world. A year ago, inspired by Netflix drama Adolescence, which depicted a boy's descent into radical hatred and violence via his phone, the country came together in a conversation on the harms of social media.

The show revealed that it cannot be down to parents and teachers alone to manage this impact. At the time ministers were vocal about the truths the series took aim at, but their response has been lacking.

AN AUSTRALIA-style ban will propel the UK to the forefront of the movement to curtail exploitative social media companies. A consultation is a step in the right direction but it opens the door to powerful lobbying and risks being kicked into the long grass. It must be laser-focused in providing an immediate pathway to raise the age of social media access to 16, drawing on experiences of those on the front line, teachers and parents.

Until we act, children will remain under threat from extreme, manipulative forces in the palms of their hands.

● *Daniel Kebede is General Secretary of the National Education Union*

'We know the tech companies are stealing childhoods'

Esther McVey

The voice of common sense

The Lowe down on rape gangs shame

THIS week sees the start of Great Yarmouth MP Rupert Lowe's Independent Rape Gang Inquiry. It will run for 10 days and will be chaired by barrister Graham Smith.

Funded by more than 20,000 members of the public, it will begin the task of unravelling the

sordid truth behind these rape gangs. I will be helping as part of the Inquiry panel.

In contrast, the long-promised government inquiry still isn't under way as they disgracefully continue to try to kick it into the long grass.

Thank goodness for Rupert Lowe, above, for putting the government to shame.

Take lord title off 'vermin in ermine'

AS MORE devastating photos and grubby details emerged from the Jeffrey Epstein files about alleged payments to Peter Mandelson and a $10,000 loan to his husband, even long-term friend and journalist Trevor Philips declared on TV that Mandelson's public and political life is at an end. He concluded Mandelson was "naive and foolish at best, greedy and duplicitous at worst".

Mandelson's love of money and power shown throughout his political life leads me to believe it was the latter. Whichever it was, surely he should be stripped of his place in the House of Lords and his title.

Get knighthoods Done and dusted

IT'S TIME our country got back to celebrating success. We should be championing and rewarding those who are brilliant enough to be able to convert an idea into a business, make money and employ people. If we're ever to get this country back as an economic powerhouse, it's essential we shake off this nasty, socialist mindset that sees wealth creators as people to be ashamed of, and their businesses as a cash cow for the state to squeeze with ever larger tax bills.

Over the weekend, the UK's highest taxpayers over the last year were revealed. The top 100 taxpayers in the UK paid £5.7billion in tax. The average taxpayer pays £7,000 a year, so those 100 people were the equivalent of 823,000 taxpayers – the size of two large UK cities.

At the top were Fred and Peter Done, the brothers behind the bookmaker Betfred, topping The Sunday Times Tax List for the first time and contributing more than £400million to the public's finances last year alone.

Now before anyone says they work in the betting industry they should be forced to pay lots of tax – *they do*. The betting industry is highly taxed and highly regulated. I'd go as far to say overly so, which is why we have seen the rapid growth in the black economy of the betting industry, now worth $5.9trillion worldwide and, if it were a country, it would be the third biggest economy in the world behind the US and China. Overtaxing and over-regulating doesn't increase tax revenues, it just expands the illegal market.

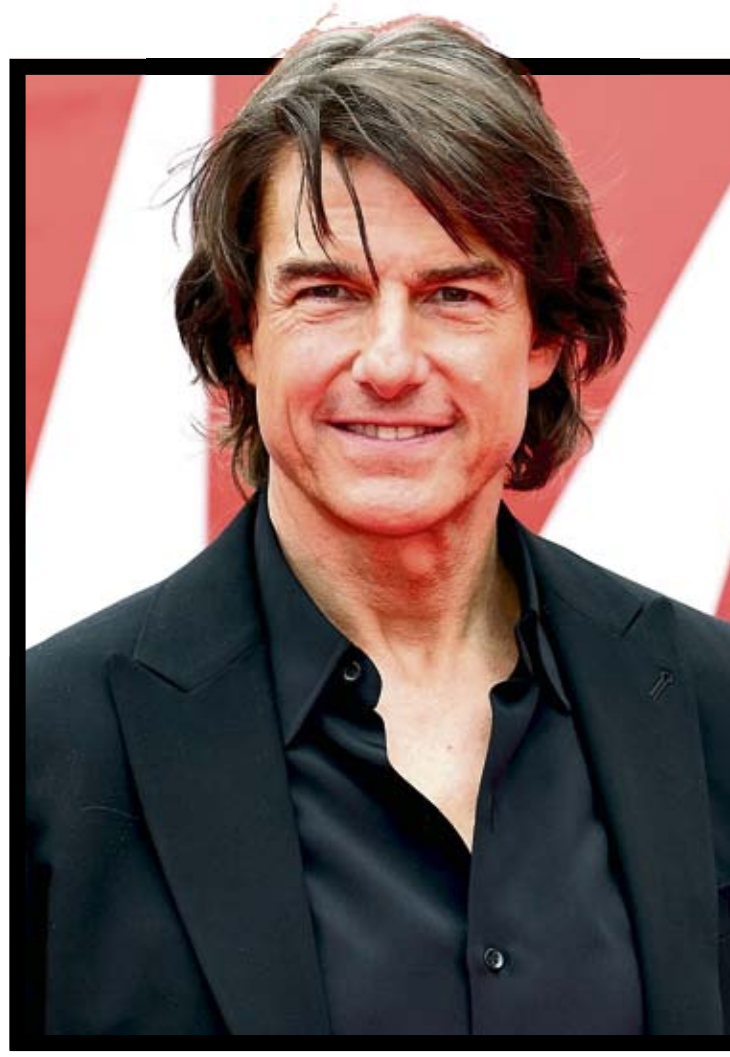
I happen to have met these brothers, through my husband Phil. They all share a love of horses and horse racing and like a flutter. Fred, right, and Peter started with nothing. They grew up in Manchester leaving school aged 15 and by 1967, aged 24, they had opened their first bookmaker, funded by a win on England's victory in the 1966 World Cup. By the mid-1980s, they had more than 70 betting shops and Peter founded Peninsula Business Services, which has more than 10 companies operating in employment law and workplace health.

They are great British businessmen who employ 10,000 people. These two men have remained in this country – they are great patriotic businessmen. If this government had a tiny ounce of sense, not only would it bring down taxes, to stop the 14,000 wealthy individuals who fled from this socialist government last year, it would also think of ways of rewarding such people.

I suggest it should look to use the honours scheme to reward them for helping to fund the county's public services, not to mention giving employment opportunities to so many people.

They could give MBEs to all of the top 100 taxpayers, and knighthoods and damehoods for those at the very top. Not only would that properly recognise these brilliant people, it might even encourage the wealthiest to stay in the country and maximise their tax bill rather than minimise it.

Arise Sir Fred and Peter Done.



Thief cruising for a bruising in capital

TOM CRUISE is said to be deserting his £35million flat in Knightsbridge days after an armed gang raided a nearby Rolex store. He's believed to think London has declined so much it is no longer safe. If that's the case, I agree with him.

Walking through Westminster last weekend I was punched as an attacker tried to steal my phone. Unfortunately for this lowlife, who grabbed for my phone as I was using it, I fought him off and kept a hold of it.

He obviously didn't count on me being a feisty Scouser. I daren't reveal the expletives my friend heard down the phone as I was wrestling to keep hold of it!

Sadiq Khan is destroying one of the greatest cities on earth at an even faster rate than the Labour government is destroying the UK.

CLAIMS that an art restorer painted the face of the Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, on to a winged angel in a fresco in one of Rome's most historic churches has got officials hot under the collar.

Senior figures in the Catholic Church are said to be furious. Meloni posted an image of her and the angel on social media, with the caption: "No, I definitely don't look like an angel."

It could have been worse for the reputation of the Catholic Church, the artist could have tried to paint Keir Starmer on it instead!

STARMER MUST STRIKE NOW TO PUT A BLOCK ON PUTIN'S STEALTH BOMBERS

ONE OF the most chilling comments I heard this week was from Estonia's Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna, right, who claimed that President Putin is preparing to send hundreds of thousands of former soldiers to wreak havoc across Europe after any ceasefire in Ukraine, to create ongoing wars in European countries. It could be Russian propaganda and misinformation to scupper the peace deal with Ukraine.

But with around 640,000 Russians still in active service, the message can't be ignored. Surely Keir Starmer must get the message and act at once.

It is now imperative that everyone who lands illegally on our shores has to be detained and deported immediately.

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Mieka Smiles

Local Matters

IMAGINING that I was in charge for a day isn't something I do often. Okay – maybe that's a bit of a fib. Just the other day, I found myself thinking about what I'd do if I created a political party from scratch. You know, the typical kind of daydream – at least for Tory councillors!

The chain of thought was sparked after former mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, and former leader of the Scottish Conservative Party, Ruth Davidson, teamed up to create a new political movement to woo the "politically homeless" of the centre and centre right, called Prosper UK.

It's for voters who feel unrepresented, unenthused and uninspired by anything currently on the table.

I'll be honest: even as a staunch Conservative, I can understand that feeling. There are days when I just wish we could wipe the slate clean and start all over again.

And, bear with me, that's how my hypothetical fledgling party took hold: working title, Stuff That Works. Yes, the branding needs a bit of tinkering...but the ethos is easy. If it works, we'll do it.

As a councillor of seven years, I have seen first-hand how grubby party politics can get in the way of things that actually deliver. In my own town, I've watched projects die not because they were flawed, but because they came from the wrong administration. Progress scrapped not due to lack of merit, but down to dogged ideology.

And we see it nationally too. Just last week Keir Starmer was hit with a potential £100million blow as Rwanda signalled it may sue, after he scrapped the asylum seeker deportation scheme as soon as he was handed the keys to No.10, only to later plead with other countries to do more or less the same thing.

This is where all parties are going wrong. Yes, I'm a Conservative. But in reality, like most Brits, I just want a country that works, not one dictated by dogma.

For all I think that Reform UK is awash with problems, one thing Nigel Farage has got right is that he wants to attract people from outside of politics to help run the country. Cabinet members with real-life business and leadership credentials, not just those who have spent their lives delivering leaflets to cling to power.

Indeed, he could take this ethos further and say they don't actually care what someone's politics is. As long as there's evidence of success behind their ideas, they'll give them a whirl. At the moment, no one really knows what they're getting when they put a cross in the Reform UK box.

Anyway, forget handing Nigel my homework. I think this is a principle all parties should adopt.

I'm a Conservative who believes in fairness, personal responsibility and striving for better. But it's all meaningless unless we have a country that actually works.

MY KIDS are in a bit of a tizz. My youngest, Harriet, 12, has taken to asking, at least once a day, when Keir Starmer is going to "ban Snapchat".

Of course, she's talking about the proposals that seem to be gathering pace – and backed by shadow education secretary Laura Trott – to restrict social media for under-16s.

It would follow the lead set in Australia, which has already done just that. Wholly sensible, if you ask me.

"But can't you just log on for me, mum?!" Harriet has pleaded.

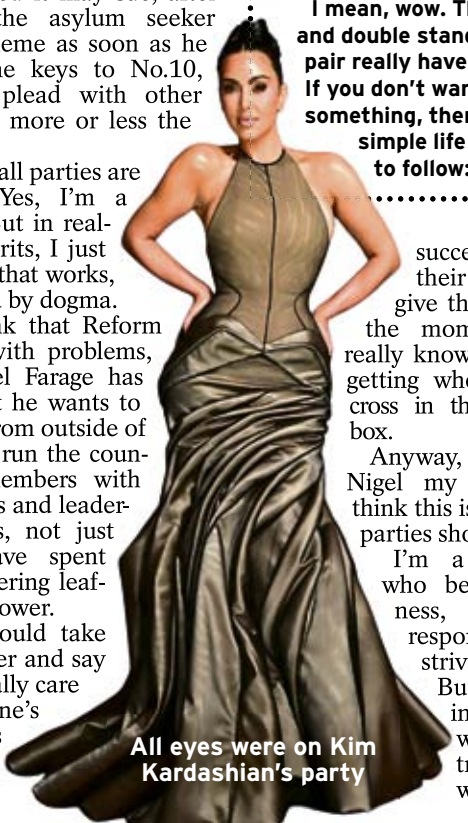
To which my answer remains firm: "Absolutely not."

SO THE truth is finally out about why Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's photos were suddenly wiped from Kim Kardashian's Instagram following her mum Kris Jenner's 70th birthday party.

Kim and her sister Khloe explained it on camera last week – it was a request from the Sussexes, who didn't want to seem disrespectful on Remembrance Day.

Kim said: "We were told it was totally cool to post and then, after it was posted, I think they realised it was Remembrance Day and they didn't want to be seen at a party, even though it's already up."

I mean, wow. The hypocrisy and double standards of this pair really have no bounds. If you don't want to seem something, then there is a simple life philosophy to follow: don't do it.



All eyes were on Kim Kardashian's party

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Plates are invisible to ANPR

Drive to get 'ghost' car plates off our roads

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**
Whitehall Editor

MOTORISTS using "ghost" number plates that cannot be seen by speed and police cameras could have their vehicles confiscated.

It is among a range of tough new penalties under consideration by the Department for Transport to tackle the growing problem, after a survey by London's Metropolitan Police found four in 10 licensed taxis and private hire vehicles had non-compliant plates.

The government is also planning to limit the number of firms licensed to provide plates. There are currently 36,000 with the required licence, which costs only £40.

Sprays

Ghost number plates are designed to evade detection by automatic number plate recognition cameras. They are typically modified using reflective materials or coatings, such as sprays or films, which prevent the infrared cameras used by authorities from reading them.

Former transport minister John Spellar, now a member of the House of Lords, said the plates were also used by organised criminals, adding: "It is linked to petrol theft, to county lines drug dealing and to robbery.

"There is a real problem with this."

Penalties being looked at include "penalty points and ultimately vehicle seizure".

AI technology is also being considered for use with cameras to ensure that licence numbers can be seen.

Pictures: TIM MERRY

Connor behind the wheel of his black cab

He's got the Knowledge!

Connor is London's youngest black cab driver at age 21

EXCLUSIVE
BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

CONNOR Dill had a double celebration as he turned 21 on the day he became the youngest black-cab driver on London's streets.

Connor got his badge at a ceremony on his 21st birthday, after two years of studying hard every day while working as a lift engineer.

He had to master The Knowledge of London – known as The Knowledge – in which wannabe taxi drivers must memorise thousands of streets and landmarks, or Points, within a six-mile radius of Charing Cross so they know the quickest routes through the capital.

Applications to start The Knowledge shot up 68.6% from 2022 to November 2025, but it is not for the faint-hearted.

The tough test typically takes three to four years and involves learning the 320 routes, known as "runs", listed in the Blue Book, plus every Point within a quarter mile of the start and end of each route. But Connor from Bromley, South East London, did it in two years.

Connor got his badge on his 21st birthday

He managed it by waking at 6am every day to cram in some learning before going to work, then studying for another six hours most nights.

The Millwall supporter passed his exam on September 2 last year but had to wait until his 21st birthday to be able to legally get behind the wheel of a black cab.

His first job came to £18 but he waived the fare "because you're meant to give your first and last job away".

The customer wanted to pay but Connor told him to donate it to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Getting his badge has fulfilled a lifetime's ambition for Connor, who loved black taxis so much as a youngster that his grandad borrowed one from his cabbie pal to drive the eight-year-old in it for a day.

Connor, one of four siblings from a "big old South London family", said his career choice meant he had to make some sacrifices at a time in his life when many lads his age would be out partying.

He said: "I'd get up at six, I'd call 80 Blue Book runs [describe the routes out loud as part of the learning process] then I'd go to work at quarter to seven.

"If I was job and knock [meaning his working day was over then the job was done] I could get home at around half two. I'd call from three o'clock till seven o'clock, then I'd revise points from 7pm till 9pm. I lived that life for close to two years.

"On the Knowledge, you have to dedicate yourself to it so you can't go out of a night, because you're doing it every single day. It was a big sacrifice to make at 18, but now I've got all the time in the world."

Several people came up to congratulate Connor while he was with the Daily Express on Sunday, after Transport for London posted on social media about his success.

And he said the interaction with people is what makes London cabbies "the best service in the world".

He said: "Not everyone wants to talk, which is fully understandable. But whenever they get in my cab, I always say, 'How are you? Have you had a nice evening?'

"Another reason I wanted to do the job was freedom. I had a nice birthday party on Saturday and I thought, I'm just going to have a nice restful one on Sunday and that's what I did. Although, to be fair, I was in bed at 6.50pm on the Sunday as I had work the next day."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Shop loyalty card cancer clues

Tesco and Boots loyalty card shopping habits could flag up disease symptoms

SHOPPING patterns captured in loyalty card data could soon be used to diagnose cancer earlier, according to researchers.

A major study will recruit almost 3,000 people to investigate whether retail habits can provide an early red flag for 10 types of the disease.

Previous research by the team found a rise in buying painkillers and indigestion drugs could signal early signs of ovarian cancer up to eight months before a diagnosis.

Now, with the Cancer Loyalty Card Study, they are searching for patterns associated with other types

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

including bowel, bladder, liver, endometrial and pancreatic cancer.

The team will trawl through data from consenting volunteers who use the Tesco Clubcard and Boots Advantage card.

Study leader Professor James Flanagan, of Imperial College London's Department of Surgery and Cancer, said: "This ultimately has the potential to revolutionise how we can use everyday data to understand and improve health. We're excited to build on the success of our first CLOCS study and to see if looking back at people's shopping history can give us clues to the way different conditions start to appear."

Many diseases can present with mild or non-specific symptoms, such as bloating, indigestion or fatigue.

Tool

This often prompts people to self-medicate before seeking professional advice.

The research team will analyse the shopping history of 1,450 cancer patients and 1,450 healthy people in a bid to identify which products are bought for each cancer type and what purchasing threshold differentiates the habits of healthy individuals from those with the disease.

Dr Talisia Quallo, head of prevention and early detection research at Cancer Research UK, said: "Changes in what we shop for – and when those changes start to happen – could become a powerful tool to find cancer at an earlier stage, when treatment is more likely to be successful."

The research and its aims are supported by both Boots and Tesco.

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Pictures: JOÃO COTTA

Frankie's farewell is a winner

BY **ANDY LINES**

VETERAN jockey Frankie Dettori pulled off his trademark flying dismount after riding to victory twice on the final day of his glittering career.

After winning the Brazilian 2,000 Guineas in Rio de Janeiro, the three-time Champion Jockey, 55, said: "I couldn't have asked for a better way to finish."

Famously in 1996, the Italian, rode seven winners in seven races at Ascot at odds of 25,095-1.

Dettori does a flying dismount in Brazil and waves goodbye to fans, below

ASSISTED DYING CAMPAIGNER IS MOURNED

Nathaniel put his heart into campaigning despite knowing that the bill would be too late for him

‘We are so proud of everything Nathaniel achieved, despite every obstacle put in his way’

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**
Health Editor

TRIBUTES have been paid to a “golden-hearted” assisted dying campaigner who passed away from bowel cancer aged just 40.

Music teacher Nathaniel Dye was at the forefront of the fight to reform the law after being given a terminal diagnosis.

Despite his dedication to the cause, he knew any change would come too late for him.

Family members Jonathan, Rebecca, Jessica and Emma said they were “relieved in the end that his deterioration was rapid and he received excellent palliative care”.

They added: “Assisted dying was thankfully not needed in his case, however we were fully aware of his wishes and would have completely supported him had it been and believe, like Nathaniel, that the option should be there for terminally ill people who are not so lucky.

“We are glad that he didn’t need an assisted death but he, and we, would have found so much comfort and reassurance had he known it was available in case of need.

“We are so incredibly proud of our little brother and everything he achieved, despite every obstacle put in his way.”

Nathaniel also campaigned for NHS reform, raised awareness of bowel cancer and made more than £52,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support through his running challenges. He regularly spoke out about his campaigning on assisted dying and attended rallies in Westminster whenever his health allowed.

‘He, and we, would have found so much comfort had he known assisted dying was available’

Between gruelling chemotherapy sessions, Nathaniel often travelled from Essex to Parliament to sit in the public gallery during debates – his presence a reminder of the terminally ill people whose futures are at stake.

He was among a number of patients with terminal illnesses who penned an open letter in September, urging peers to stop referring to the legislation as the “assisted suicide bill”.

Describing how he had tried to “squeeze every last drop out of life” in recent years, the teacher said: “I wish to live and if there is anything I’m not, it’s suicidal.

“To describe dying people as ‘suicidal’ is to completely and callously miss the point and mindset of terminally ill people. By definition, we are dying.

“Considering an assisted death is not to choose between life and death. It is to accept that the only choice left is between a death with a measure of control, perhaps in the loving arms of one’s family, and a death potentially full of pain and suffering.”

In November, Nathaniel said it was “incredibly frustrating” to see a small group of peers trying to filibuster and kill the assisted dying legislation. He added: “It feels like people are playing games with my life, with my death.”

Nathaniel tried to ‘squeeze every last drop out of life’ said his family

Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, who introduced the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill – backed by the Express’s Give Us Our Last Rights campaign – in 2024, said: “I’m devastated to hear that Nathaniel Dye has passed away.

“Nat was an absolutely inspirational, fearless, selfless, tireless campaigner on a range of issues, even when he was really poorly himself.

“I can’t thank him enough for the support that he gave me on the bill.” The Spen Valley MP said Nathaniel “never gave up and he was always there with a smile on his face”.

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She added: “I’m so proud to have spent time with him and I’m really grateful for the precious memories I’ve got of getting to know him just a little bit.

“I’m thinking about all his family and friends today and in the coming weeks and months because I know it will be really difficult for them.”

Lord Charlie Falconer, the bill’s Lords sponsor, said Nathaniel was a steadfast supporter throughout the campaign.

He added: “He was an absolutely lovely guy. He had a range of symptoms from his illnesses and he never complained.

“He was an absolutely golden-hearted supporter of the cause. It is so sad he has died and it is so tragic that he has not lived to see the bill become law.

“I will miss him a lot and I send my warmest and deepest sympathies to his family.”

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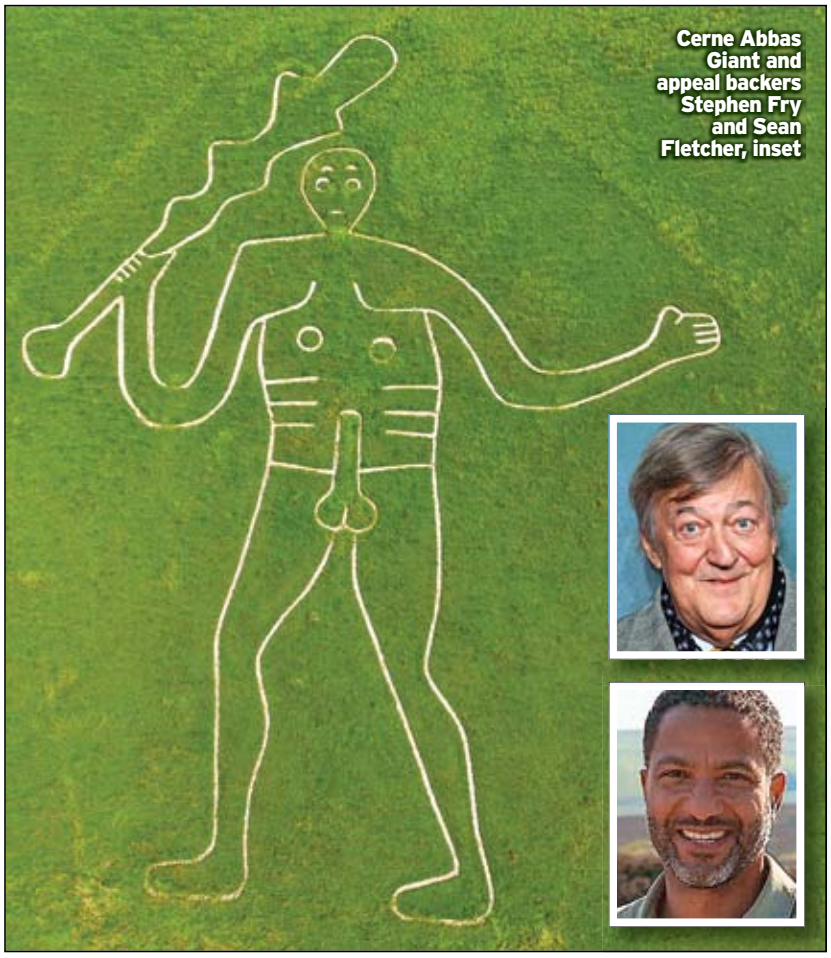

Trust chalks up victory for 'Giant's Lair'

BY **MATT NIXSON**

CHALK grasslands around the Cerne Abbas Giant will be restored after a National Trust fundraising appeal smashed its target in just 60 days.

The conservation charity raised £330,000 to help fund the purchase of 138 hectares surrounding the chalk figure sculpted on a Dorset hillside.

In a campaign supported by the likes of Stephen Fry and Countryfile presenter Sean Fletcher, supporters across 20 countries made donations ranging from £1 to £32,000.

Habitats

More than £2million has been raised in total to secure land known as the "Giant's Lair", which also includes Giant Hill. The Trust will now create a "mosaic" of habitats to help conserve and encourage birds and insects, especially butterflies.

The purchase will also provide new opportunities for archaeology – building on analysis in 2021 which found that the Giant – famously bald, naked and with a large phallus – was probably first carved in the Early Medieval period (770-1100 AD).

National Trust boss Hilary McGrady said: "Thanks to this remarkable public support, we can protect, create and connect vital habitats around the Cerne Abbas Giant, giving a lifeline to some of the nation's rarest species. I'm so pleased to start the new year with such a powerful example of people coming together and raising money to give nature the helping hand it needs."

Hannah Jefferson, manager of West Dorset & Cranborne Chase, added: "It's amazing that we now have this opportunity to do so much more around the Cerne Abbas Giant...to help species adapt and thrive."

Ten donors also won the chance to help rechalk the Giant, ensuring it remains visible for years to come.

Soggy start for the new year

AN "exceptional" amount of rain last month led to it being one of the wettest on record.

Northern Ireland had the soggiest January since 1877 with 70% more than the long-term average. And it was also the sixth wettest on record for southern England, with 74% more rain than normal. England as a whole saw 50% more rain than average.

Met Office science manager Dr Amy Doherty said: "January has been exceptionally wet because we've seen a very persistent Atlantic weather pattern."

Streeting unveils support

£10m fund for cancer kids' travel expenses

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**
Health Editor

CHILDREN with cancer will have travel costs covered by a £10million-a-year support package.

One in three young patients must travel for over an hour to hospital.

Families will be able to apply for funds regardless of income.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting will launch Labour's National Cancer Plan tomorrow.

He said: "When a child is diagnosed with cancer, their family's only focus should be on helping them recover...not on whether they can afford the petrol or bus fare to their next appointment.

"Our plan will leave no family out of pocket while their child goes through cancer."

Struggling

The fund will support parents like Emma Wilding, of West Lancashire, whose son Theo was diagnosed with infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2024 at five months.

The family regularly drove 45 minutes to Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.

Emma said: "We had no choice but to pay out for fuel and parking at the hospital, as we had to be by his side. Sat on the ward, I met so many families struggling with these costs, many travelling from much further away."

Prof Peter Johnson, NHS England clinical director for cancer, said: "Together with earlier diagnosis, emotional support, genomic testing and better access to trials, this will help deliver the new National Cancer Plan's goal of improving care for children and young people with cancer."

Flipping heck! Gold again for Peter at 91

A steady build-up to the tricks

BY **DAN WARBURTON**

A CHAMPION gymnast has made a winning comeback to trampolining at the age of 91 – 40 years after his last contest.

Backflipping great-grandfather Peter Quinney proved age is just a number as he won two gold medals at a competition.

The remarkable ex-RAF trainer, who celebrated his 90th birthday with a double backflip, won gold in the team and individual category at an event for adults over 40.

Peter performed tricks including a 360 spin and a seat drop at the competition hosted by Portsmouth Gym Club, Hants.

And it comes 66 years after he won the British championships in 1960.

The father of four said: "It was a most enjoyable afternoon. I just love doing it.

Backflips

"It is very important for people to find something they love in retirement, to be fit and exercise.

"It's easy to slip into wandering round the garden and watching the television.

"I don't know of anyone else my age doing this sort of thing but I'm sure they are out there.

"I'll just keep going until my body doesn't let me do it any longer."

Taking inspiration from Captain Sir Tom Moore, who completed 100 laps of his garden to raise money for the NHS, Peter aims to mark his 100th birthday with 100 backflips.

Peter, who received the Air Force medal from Queen Elizabeth II, added: "If I could do that and raise money for Cancer Research I would be delighted."

With his two gold medals

Peter spins through the air and lands, right

What you thinking, baby?

Brain imaging shows two-month-olds can identify objects

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

PARENTS have often wondered what their baby is thinking and at what age they start to make sense of the world – now scientists may have the answer.

Researchers combined brain imaging with artificial intelligence models to analyse cognition patterns in two-month-old infants.

The study at at Trinity College Dublin found that when shown pictures including a cat, bird, rubber duck, shopping cart and tree, the tots were able to group the subjects into distinct categories.

Study leader Dr Cliona O'Doherty said: "This research highlights the richness of brain function in the first year of life.

Richness

"Although at two months, infants' communication is limited by a lack of language and fine motor control, their minds were already not only responding to how things look, but figuring out to which category they belonged.

"This shows the foundations of visual cognition are already in place from very early on and much earlier than expected."

The team recruited 130 two-month-old infants who were shown bright, colourful images for 15 to 20 minutes while functional MRI scans monitored brain activity.

Professor Rhodri Cusack said the data "opens up a new way to measure what babies are thinking at a very early age".

Tots put items in categories, analysis has shown

I don't know howitzer got up there, doc

BY **PETER ALLEN**

A BOMB disposal team raced to a hospital after a live First World War artillery shell was found up a patient's bottom.

The 24-year-old man, who has asked not to be identified, arrived "in a state of extreme discomfort" at the hospital in France late on Saturday night.

A source said: "Emergency surgery was carried out, and the object was found to be an artillery shell dating from the First World War.

"Worse still, it had not exploded, and so bomb disposal experts had to be called to defuse the shell, with the fire brigade standing by."

The hospital in Toulouse was evacuated before the pointed 8in German shell, just over an inch in circumference, was declared safe.

The French patient is due to be interviewed by police for handling category A munitions.

Such shells are regularly discovered on farmland and building sites in France.

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Three Lions are inn it to win it

Meadowbrook hotel where the team will stay

Facilities include an outdoor pool and 24-hour gym, right. Left, views over hotel's tranquil lake

BY **ANDY LINES**

HARRY Kane and his Three Lions team-mates are taking over a hotel marketed as an "English cottage" as they bid for World Cup glory.

FA chiefs ruled out the bright lights of New York, Los Angeles and Miami.

Instead they have plumped for The Inn at Meadowbrook, where rooms cost from £200 a night. It will mean their base, just outside Kansas City, is right in the middle of the United States.

The 54-room hotel has a 24-hour gym, swimming pool and a hot tub – perfect for our boys to stay in tip-top shape and unwind after matches. The hotel boasts: "Meadowbrook Park is the ideal setting to enjoy nature, relax, and spend time with your favourite people."

Manager Thomas Tuchel, 52, is likely to host team talks in the Grand Suite, with views over the lake – or he could chat tactics round the firepit.

But there is no golf course, a blow for skipper Kane, 32.

England face a trek to matches, with similar travel times to those in Russia in 2018. Their opener with Croatia on June 17 is in Dallas – 550 miles and a one-and-a-half-hour flight away.

The 37-day tournament kicks off on June 11 in Mexico before moving to North America. The final is at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium on July 19.

Harry Kane is vying for glory in US

New RAF recruits whipped and made to sing Baby Shark

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

THUGGISH members of the RAF whipped new recruits and led them around like dogs while forcing them to sing children's songs such as Baby Shark in a humiliating initiation ritual.

Five airmen have been jailed for several weeks but have avoided the sack.

Military police launched a probe after footage of punishments to new arrivals at RAF Honington in Suffolk was shared on WhatsApp last year.

The investigation came four years after a recruit at the base was filmed being stripped naked and assaulted with a piece of mortar equipment.

Catterick Military Court in North Yorkshire was shown three video clips of a "kangaroo court" run by airmen Byron Coy, 20, Corey Cross, 19, Alfie Holcombe, 23, Connor McCulloch, 23, and Tomos Windridge, 20.

It showed three terrified recruits being dragged from their quarters to a darkened room where Gregorian chanting and Islamic calls to prayer were blasted at high volume. One victim pleaded for them to stop but had his hands whipped with rubber resistance bands.

He further protested when he saw he was being filmed and McCulloch looped a band around his neck and led him around like a dog.

One victim was told to "bow down and hail" to Byron Coy, another was made to walk like a monkey and a third was struck on the back by Holcombe with a belt.

Assistant Judge Advocate General Edward Legard and senior officers sent the five defendants to Colchester's Military Corrective Training Centre for between six and 18 weeks. Judge Legard said: "This type of behaviour can all too easily escalate into more serious bullying with serious and sometimes fatal consequences."

Corey Cross and Tomos Windridge were jailed

'Reservists in pensions victory over MoD'

BY **JAMES KNUCKEY**

THOUSANDS of Army Reservists could be in line for "life-changing" pensions after a tribunal shot down an appeal by the Ministry of Defence.

The MoD lost its challenge to a ruling last year that found it had no right to exclude reservists from a pension scheme before 2015.

Major Charles Milroy, 66, brought and won his test case after being denied a pension despite over 37 years in the Territorial Army, including a tour in Iraq. He served for 46 days a year on average, but that rose to 150 days after he retired from his civilian job. TA troops were denied a full service pension until 2015, when the Armed Forces Pension Scheme levelled the playing field for regulars and reservists.

Rejecting the MoD's case, the Employment Appeal Tribunal found that Maj Milrow was not self-employed but a part-time worker and therefore entitled to a pension.

Posting last year, Maj Milroy said: "Other TA soldiers will be able to make similar claims, and for some this may be life-changing."

Three Coins in the Fountain? No, it's now a two-euro charge

TOURISTS in Rome are being charged for access to the famous Trevi Fountain in a bid to control crowds at the popular site.

The €2 (£1.73) fee was levied for the first time yesterday, with visitors having to pass through a ticket check to see the attraction which features in a number of films including Three Coins in the Fountain.

It was rolled out along with a €5 (£4.33) tourist fee for some museums.

Rome residents are exempt from the fees, which are part of the city's efforts to manage tourist flows and preserve its cultural heritage.

Alessandro Onorato, Rome's assessor of tourism, said tourists must have been "shocked" at being charged so little, adding: "If the Trevi Fountain were in New York, they would have charged at least $100."

It follows a similar ticketing system at Rome's Pantheon and the day-tripper tax which Venice has imposed to help ease overtourism and make the city more liveable for residents.

It comes after France hiked prices for non-European visitors to the Louvre Museum, from €22 to €32.

Trevi Fountain no longer free

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Transform your bath into a soothing escape with this relaxing Massage Pillow. Designed to relieve tension and ease tired muscles, this waterproof pillow features three massage motors with two levels of intensity for a personalised massage experience. Its gentle vibration helps ease painful backs, aching shoulders and weary calves. Compact and lightweight, it's perfect for the bathtub, providing comfort and relaxation every time you soak. The removable cover is washable and includes a convenient drying loop.

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Trustpilot

HOME SICK

15 million Britons are living in cold homes with mould and damp, putting their health at risk

By **Hannah Britt**

NEARLY one in four Brits – or a huge 15 million people – are living in homes that are making them ill, shock research has revealed.

Renters were particularly likely to be among the estimated six million families and three million children to face issues such as damp, mould or cold.

Martin Roberts, host of property series Homes Under the Hammer, is fronting a campaign to improve UK living conditions in the wake of the startling findings.

He says: "It's got to be recognised as a public health crisis, the amount of damage it's doing to people and the knock-on effects on the NHS.

"The environment in which you live not only affects your mental wellbeing, but also has now been proved to potentially very seriously affect your health and the health of your family – and kids especially."

The worrying figures from Health Equals, a coalition of 100 organisations, are based on a survey of 3,982 people in October 2025 and show the UK is still rife with unfit living conditions.

Awaab's Law, which came into force last autumn, says social landlords must investigate and fix damp and mould in strict time frames.

It was named in memory of two-year-old Awaab Ishak, who died in 2020 from a severe respiratory condition caused by black mould in his home in Rochdale, Greater Manchester.

His father Faisal Abdullah had repeatedly complained to Rochdale Boroughwide Housing but action was not taken to tackle it.

At the 2022 inquest a senior coroner ruled part of the cause of Awaab's death was due to environmental mould pollution. Faisal campaigned hard for Awaab's Law and said: "My son has passed away now but this has left me a legacy that I can remember. I'm really proud of him."

Awaab, left, who died aged two and his dad Faisal

Low income households – particularly those renting – are the most profoundly affected, with the worst areas identified as the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Martin says: "There are areas where, depending on where you live and, I guess, the socioeconomics of that area, your life expectancy could be shortened by up to 16 years, according to the Health Equals research."

Paul McDonald, of Health Equals, said: "Our research lays bare a health crisis hidden behind closed doors inside people's homes. Millions are living with issues like damp, cold or mould; conditions proven to damage health and worsen chronic illnesses like asthma and heart disease.

"A warm, dry and healthy home shouldn't be a luxury, but a basic human right."

● *More at healthequals.org.uk*

Pictures: MARK RADFORD

MARTIN'S SAFETY TIPS

Monitor your home...
Let fresh air in, check guttering and clean gutters, check for cracks letting water in and avoid having soil beds pushed up against the house. Martin says: "Modern houses can seem like they're a bit hermetically sealed so there's no natural airflow. Strike a balance between keeping the house warm and getting fresh air into that house."

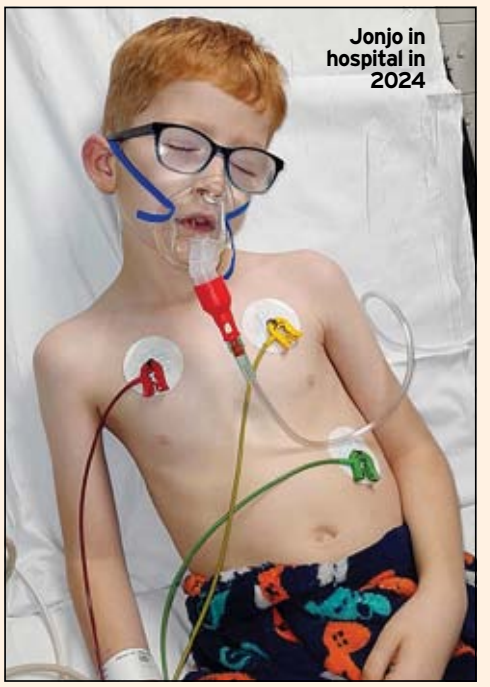
What to look for...
Martin says: "Damp and mould shows itself around the windows, in the back of cupboards, generally lower down on walls. Feel the walls, does it feel damp? Does it feel cold? Does it feel wet? Damp tends to smell musty, like an old pair of socks."

Locate the problem:
Martin says: "Properties aren't rocket science. Normally you can say, 'Well actually I've got a bit of damp there, what's on the other side of that?...Oh look, there's a drain pipe that's got a crack in it'."

Check your tumble dryer:
Martin says: "Because the tumble dryer often sits on the top of a washing machine, which is vibrating, these move, so all the damp air from your dryer is spilling out into the house."

TV's Martin Roberts is leading fight

Colleen with Jonjo, who has a bad chest



Jonjo in hospital in 2024

It's taken a toll... I'm scared for him

COLLEEN Curran, 41, is a single mother of five, who has lived in a two-bedroom council house for 13 years.

She says: "For most of the time I've lived here, I've been battling severe damp and mould. It has taken an awful toll on my family's health, and when I saw the news about Awaab Ishak it scared me because it showed how dangerous your living conditions can be.

"I'm a single mum to Freya, 14, Michael, 11, Orla, 10, Jonjo, nine, and Connie, two. In November 2024, Jonjo, who suffers from serious respiratory issues, was hospitalised after developing pneumonia. According to the doctors, it was linked to our home's conditions.

"He's really suffered with his chest since he was a baby. He's had croup and bronchitis a few times. Every year it's the same, he has two to three weeks off school, sometimes more, because he ends up getting a chest infection. "

But in November 2024, Jonjo was rushed to hospital by ambulance.

Mould in home can cause harm

Colleen says: "Doctors said he had pneumonia and an infection on his left lung. He was hospitalised and on oxygen for five days.

"There's nothing worse than seeing your child sick from something that could have been prevented."

Colleen, who works at Cadent Warm Wash Centre, where people can clean their clothes for free and have a hot drink while they wait, says the Birmingham council house, built in 1975 in Winson Green, is very draughty and she can only afford to heat one room, relying on an electric heater and blankets.

She adds: "The council come out and paint over it with anti-mould paint. But by the time they have finished the bathroom upstairs, it's already started coming through downstairs.

"I support Martin Roberts' call to action. We need to protect our children from going through what poor Awaab and his family went through. I don't want it to be Jonjo next."

A Birmingham City Council spokesman said the council is investing more than £200million a year in providing better council homes.

They said: "We are sorry to hear about the difficulties Ms Curran and her family have been experiencing. No one should have to live in a home with damp and mould. An inspection of the property is being arranged for next week."

● *For more on damp prevention and the Warm Wash Centre see cadentgas.com*

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RELAXATION AT ITS BEST

Meet your ultimate gateway to comfort and convenience: the Crawley Electric Riser Recliner. Combining modern technology with classic craftsmanship, this chair is more than a piece of furniture - it's an experience. Designed for those who value luxury and practicality, the Crawley recliner transforms relaxation into an art form.

DESIGNED FOR ACTIVE LIVING

The Crawley recliner's standout electric lift-assist feature makes transitioning from sitting to standing a breeze. Whether for mobility support or added convenience, this functionality ensures your comfort and accessibility are prioritised. No more struggling with movement; this recliner is built to cater to your needs with ease.

BUILT TO LAST

Crafted with solid hardwood for stability and durability, the Crawley is as dependable as it is stylish. Its textured fabric upholstery adds an elegant touch, blending seamlessly with any décor. This chair isn't just a practical addition—it's a timeless investment in both quality and aesthetics, promising to serve you for years to come.

CUTTING-EDGE COMFORT

Recline effortlessly into bliss with the Crawley's sturdy metal mechanism, complemented by a high, studded back for ergonomic support. Strategically placed massage points in the seat, lower, and upper back offer therapeutic relief, while the warming heat function soothes your lumbar area, creating a spa-like experience at home. Plus, to keep things easy, the Crawley comes with a two-man delivery and assembly service, ensuring a seamless, hassle-free setup for your new chair.

The Crawley Electric Riser Recliner is more than just a chair, it's a lifestyle upgrade designed to elevate your relaxation and convenience.

- ✓ Electrically operated rise and recline
- ✓ Warming heat function
- ✓ Massage points in seat, lower and upper back
- ✓ Material: Linen
- ✓ Dimensions: H115 x W82 x D94cm

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Trustpilot

PROUD GUARD OF HONOUR FOR JIM, 99

Pictures: MAX WILLCOCK/BNPS

Veterans provide a guard of honour at the funeral of Jim Justice, inset as a young man

Funeral farewell fit for D-Day hero

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**

STRANGERS answered an SOS and provided a guard of honour for a D-Day hero's final journey.

Rifleman Jim Justice, one of the last surviving lionhearts of the fabled Normandy invasion of 1944, died just days before his 100th birthday.

Jim, survived by his wife of 72 years Joy, died at his care home in New Milton, Hants, on January 10.

His family had planned a surprise party to mark what would have been his centenary on February 13.

Serving soldiers, strangers, friends and family bade farewell to the great-grandfather of 10 who 82 years ago bravely stormed the blood-soaked beaches of Northern France.

Daughter Christine Derrington had issued a call for mourners to "come together in one final act of honour" in tribute to the selfless service of the hero who wanted The Last Post played at his send-off.

She said: "We had arranged a big party but he didn't quite make it. We are all incredibly proud of him. He was a very unassuming man with no airs and graces about him."

Jim was part of the crack Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

Jim, right, with medals and inset, with the Queen in 2024. Above, Union flag-draped coffin

The 1st Battalion with which he served fought in Sicily and Italy, before the Normandy landings and advance across north-west Europe.

Jim volunteered in 1943 aged 17 without telling his parents. He recalled seeing bodies floating as he waded through the water and on to Gold Beach amid machine gun and mortar fire. He was an anti-tank gunner and part of the push through Arromanches and Bayeux and, eventually, Caen, in what was among the bloodiest fighting of the Allied assault of Nazi-occupied Europe.

Jim was demobbed in 1947 and awarded France's Legion of Honour, its highest order of merit, in 2017.

Like many of the greatest generation, Jim, who was among those who liberated Belsen-Bergen concentration camp in 1945, shielded his family from the horrors he saw.

He returned to France for the 80th anniversary commemorations of D-Day in 2024 as a VIP guest at the British Normandy Memorial, seated alongside King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Last year, he was a guest of honour at Westminster Abbey for a service marking VE Day's 80th anniversary.

Jean Barras, of the Royal British Legion, told mourners: "Like all these boys, Jim was a hero. It was important for us all to stand together to honour him, remember his service, and to say thank you."

Victim Thomas Wallace, 89

Driver admits killing OAP in hit and run car tragedy

BY **STANLEY MURPHY-JOHNS**

AN Albanian driver has admitted death by dangerous driving after hitting an 89-year-old man and continuing with him on top of the car for almost a mile.

Retired dental surgeon Thomas Wallace was struck in Gillingham, Kent, just after noon on December 29 last year. He died at the scene.

Albert Matraxhiu, 29, of Edgware, North London, had denied the death by dangerous driving charge but has now changed his plea.

He and Erald Paci, 29, of Chatham, Kent, both also admitted intention to pervert the course of justice after the collision.

Their Mercedes was found near the scene and the duo fled, disposing of their phones, clothes and the number plates.

Prosecutor Sarah Wilkinson said: "We worked closely with police to build the strongest possible case against both defendants.

"Matraxhiu had no option but to plead guilty to all the charges just over a month after the collision took place."

The pair remain in custody to be sentenced on March 20.

Ex-MP faces trial on 'rape'

BY **REBECCA BLACK**

THE trial of former DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and his wife on charges relating to alleged historical sexual offences is expected to start in May.

Jeffrey Donaldson, 63, has pleaded not guilty to 18 alleged offences.

Charges include one count of rape and allegations of indecent assault and gross indecency. The allegations span between 1985 and 2008 involving two alleged victims.

Eleanor Donaldson, 59, is facing charges of aiding and abetting, which she denies. Yesterday, Newry crown court, Northern Ireland, heard the trial would start on May 26.

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> "Fab buy! Bought for use in the bedroom in winter due to condensation on windows & walls at side of windows turning black. It has stopped condensation & mould in my room. It's very quiet, light & easy to use. Would highly recommend."
>
> ★★★★★
> **Kevin Savage**

Keep your home dry, fresh, and comfortable with the HOMCOM 20L Dehumidifier and Air Purifier. More than just a moisture remover, this versatile unit also purifies the air and features a dedicated laundry drying mode that quickly dries clothes, towels, rugs, or shoes while saving energy compared to a tumble dryer. By removing up to 20 L of water per day, it protects furniture, floors, and walls from damp, condensation, and mould.

EFFICIENT LAUNDRY DRYING

The Dry Clothes mode accelerates drying times for wet laundry, helping you save both time and energy. This makes it an ideal alternative to a conventional tumble dryer, reducing running costs while keeping garments safe.

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FLEXIBLE OPERATION AND EASY CONTROL

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Trustpilot

Meryl the peril returns in Devil Wears Prada sequel

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

THE first trailer for the eagerly awaited sequel to the Devil Wears Prada has dropped and is full of all the bitchiness fashion fans loved from the first movie.

Meryl Streep, 76, reprises her role as terrifying magazine editor Miranda Priestly while Anne Hathaway, 43, returns as the loveable Andy Sachs.

Emily Blunt, 42, and Stanley Tucci, 65, also reappear – 20 years after the original film was released in 2006.

The trailer for The Devil Wears Prada 2 unveils Andy as the new features editor of the cutthroat Runway magazine.

The move leaves Blunt's character, Emily Charlton, stunned as their bitter rivalry continues.

Emily snipes at her enemy: "You've changed. You're much more confident. You kept those eyebrows, though, didn't you?"

The film, set in New York, has Kenneth Branagh, Bridgerton's Simone Ashley, Justin Theroux and Lucy Liu as new characters. It is out on May 1.

Fashion favourites Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci and Emily Blunt, inset

Ukrainians wear defiance sparingly after four years

LIFE IN KYIV

JOHN MARONE

Despatch from the frontline

MOST people in Ukraine have learnt to stoically bear the hardship of having their country attacked and destroyed by the armies of Moscow, but some still proudly wear their hostility to the invaders on their sleeves.

On an overcast afternoon last month, as throngs of people in the centre of Kyiv braved freezing temperatures and icy pavements to celebrate the New Year in a traditional street stroll, a bold political statement broke through the clouds on the back of one woman's winter coat.

"Russia Is a Terrorist State", read the words on her colourful down coat, a fashion statement that echoed a law passed by the Ukrainian parliament back in 2022, when the Kremlin launched its full-scale military assault. The parliament declared at the time: "The goal of the political regime of the Russian Federation is the genocide of the Ukrainian people, physical destruction, mass murders of Ukrainians and the commission of international crimes against the civilian population." Now, almost four years on, with tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians killed or wounded by Russian forces, this statement has proven prophetic – a prophecy some here are not shy about proclaiming.

T-shirt with an anti-Russian slogan in Ukrainian

Konstantin is the director of a Dnipro-based publishing and printing house called Kavun, which also produces prints for clothing on order, including anti-Russia slogans like "Russia is a terrorist state".

He said: "I support this message 100%. The Russians are beasts who unleashed a savage war against Ukraine as well as against Georgia and other countries."

Such overtly anti-Russia prints are not as popular as they used to be, he acknowledged, but he still gets orders for them, especially from buyers in the US and Georgia.

Konstantin added: "People in Ukraine are tired of the war. Some are even afraid to say what they really think."

More common are orders for clothing with pro-Ukrainian patriotic symbols or flags, he said. Konstantin has had hate mail from pro-Russian sympathisers on account of his prints but is undaunted. He said: "One guy wrote 'F*** off' under our advert on eBay, but I was not bothered."

A shop assistant at a clothing outlet in Kyiv specialising in Ukrainian-made items agreed that anti-Russian logos are less popular than they used to be but said they still enjoy a market. Digging through a pile of T-shirts, she pulls out one emblazoned with the words "Butcher Russia", which she proudly displayed to be photographed – but with her face hidden.

Others are more unabashed. An elderly woman selling clothing and accessories on a cold square in the centre sees the sale of anti-Russian textiles not going down but under foot. Her Putin welcome mat, she insists, is the most popular item in her inventory. She said: "It sells better than anything else."

Woman wears coat with anti-Moscow message in English

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	54	-39	3/5 OF THIS	+57	÷11	SQUARE IT	+48	÷7	-3	
Intermediate	91	+54	INCREASE BY 20%	-26	3/4 OF THIS	+153	÷11	-7	x5	
Advanced	17	x7	+154	REVERSE THE DIGITS	5/6 OF THIS	-46	INCREASE BY 75%	-87	÷15	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
SET FOR LIFE 2 6 31 39 42 5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
LOTTERY 7 8 17 25 37 40 11
THUNDERBALL 2 11 14 27 39 1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30
EUROMILLIONS
14 18 31 35 46 7 11
THUNDERBALL
24 29 36 38 39 13

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
8 9 11 44 48 42

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
5 10 19 35 47 16

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Saturday:
Do you agree that Britain now deserves a Proper Brexit?

YES: 99%
NO: 1%

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

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SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

	6		5	3			8	7
	9						5	
5		7	6		4			2
		1		6			9	5
	5		8		7		1	
4	3			1		7		
1			7			5		6
	4			5			2	
		5		9	8		7	1

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry.
For today's solution call:
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For extra clues call:
09013 225 602
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)

MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

3	4	7	5	9	1	2	8	6
2	6	1	8	4	3	5	7	9
9	8	5	6	7	2	4	3	1
7	5	2	1	8	4	9	6	3
4	9	6	2	3	7	1	5	8
1	3	8	9	5	6	7	2	4
5	1	3	7	6	9	8	4	2
8	2	4	3	1	5	6	9	7
6	7	9	4	2	8	3	1	5

Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

GROW MORE WITH A MINI GREENHOUSE

This portable mini greenhouse makes small-space gardening simple and enjoyable. The compact structure has been thoughtfully designed with a low, wide shape – perfect for fitting along garden edges, on patios or in smaller outdoor corners. The steel frame offers stability, while a UV-resistant plastic mesh cover shields plants from light showers and gentle breezes, keeping your growing area calm and protected. The material still allows essential sunlight and airflow to reach your plants, helping vegetables and flowers thrive throughout the year. For older gardeners, the ease of use is key – two roll-up doors provide practical access without the need to bend or reach too far. Whether you're nurturing seedlings, encouraging early spring crops or simply enjoying time with nature, this greenhouse is an ideal companion. It brings structure to your gardening routine, especially when full-sized greenhouses are too large or impractical for your space.

Dimensions:
H90 x W90 x D270cm

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Trustpilot

Lara, nine, is a natural on ancient bike

BY **ISOBEL WILLIAMS**

MEET the penny-farthing prodigy who has mastered her 36-inch-wheel model at the age of nine.

Lara Pollard was taught how to ride it just under a year ago by dad Bill, who said she was a natural on the 19th-century bike.

The duo cycle around Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, almost every Sunday in Victorian costumes - with matching Union Jack tweed jackets.

Lara said: "It was quite easy to learn and by the second time I was riding it I was taking both hands off.

"I like how it makes lots of people smile.

"It is really really fun. My friends think I am crazy, in a very good way. I definitely want to keep doing it. Dressing up is fun."

Bill, 59, said: "Lara seemed to really enjoy the attention.

"To be doing something I love with somebody I love - there is nothing better."

Lara Pollard, nine, on old fashioned machine and with father Bill

The Crusader Fighting for your rights

By MAISHA FROST

Pulling the strings to save cost of gig

TWICE THE PRICE: The original rock concert tickets had been cancelled in error

TREATING her dad to see his favourite band turned into quite a performance for a loving daughter and then, having paid twice amid the mayhem, there was the matter of a refund.

Karen Lewis was on a high when earlier last year she booked two tickets, costing £96, for dad Alan and herself to see The Manfreds, formed in 1991 by members of the "Swinging Sxities" British pop group Manfred Mann.

"My dad's been a fan since the beginning, got all their vinyl and is still fit enough to enjoy a live gig, so this was our chance," Karen told Crusader.

But after that seizing-the-moment high and thinking everything was done and dusted, just days before the big night, Karen was left reeling. Making sense of anything after that was almost beyond her, she recalls.

"I was told the tickets were ready and downloaded Ticketmaster's app as instructed. But then the sign came up 'tickets cancelled'. I was so shocked. When I called I was told that had happened back in May because of a change of venue and I should have received an email and a refund.

"I hadn't seen this – although I did spot a £4 credit pop up, but had no idea what that was for and, wrongly in retrospect, didn't check or follow it up.

"I felt sick, I was so disappointed and this was just a day before the gig. But I didn't want to disappoint my dad until I absolutely had to, so just focussed on getting new tickets. It was a rush."

But just as Karen was allowing herself a moment of calm congratulation, yet another email arrived.

This one had new tickets, but less good different seats further back in the venue.

"My head was spinning," she adds. "I decided to stick with what we already had and we had a wonderful time.

"Ticketmaster was very positive when I asked about my refund and explained all the contradictory instructions. But weeks have now gone by and am still waiting."

And now applause for Ticketmaster. After Crusader told them of Karen's struggles, they came back a day later with an apology and the money and a gift card.

"Following a venue change all ticket holders were emailed in July and automatically reseated with a £4 price readjustment for (Karen)," said a spokesperson.

"Unfortunately our customer support agent mistakenly advised that her original booking had been cancelled. We do apologise for this error."

Karen responded: "I will keep a closer check on messages and thank you Crusader for getting me heard."

"The most important thing is it all came right on the night, so it was worth it in the end."

● *Names have been changed*

If you want help with a problem or wish to applaud good service, we will do our best to help. We can't always promise a reply but please contact The Crusader, Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP. Email: crusader@express.co.uk. Only send document copies, not originals. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, thank you.

Did you have vehicle finance between 2007 and 2024?

- We identify your finance agreements
- We confirm your eligibility
- We manage the entire claims process
- We make sure your compensation is calculated correctly

The FCA estimates an average of £700* is due to be paid per-claim.

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- MONDAY HEALTH & BEAUTY
- TUESDAY SHOPPING & PETS
- WEDNESDAY MONEY
- THURSDAY TECH & MOTORING
- FRIDAY SHOPPING DEALS & REVIEWS
- SATURDAY TRAVEL, GARDENING & FOOD
- SUNDAY TRAVEL, GARDENING & REVIEWS

FASHION GET THE LOOK

Compiled by **GRACE SALMON**

Brief moments

Find the perfect match this Valentine's with lingerie sets that look as good as they feel

Bralette £34
Knickers £16
LEMONADE DOLLS

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Briefs £4
PRIMARK

Bra £10
Shorts £9
PEACOCKS

Bra £36
Thong £18
POUR MOI

SHOPPING & PETS

32 Shopping
34 Pets
37 TV Guide
42 Horoscopes
43 City
46 Your Letters
PLUS Puzzles

Bra £22
Thong £12
NEXT

Winter Sale
Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

6-IN-1 CLICK SWITCH MOP

Tackle messy floors and hard-to-reach corners with the Spring & Spruce Click Switch Mop. This 6-in-1 cleaning system is like a Swiss army knife for your home, combining a mop, broom, squeegee, telescopic duster, crevice brush and scraper in one handy tool. Switch between tasks easily with a simple click of your foot, moving from room to room without carrying multiple tools.

The super-absorbent microfibre pads handle wet, dry or sticky messes and are machine washable for repeated use. The soft-bristled broom sweeps dust, crumbs and hair effortlessly, while the squeegee leaves mirrors, windows and tiles streak-free. The telescopic duster reaches high and low, and the hidden crevice brush and scraper clean awkward spots like radiators, kitchen corners and grout. Lightweight and easy to handle, the Click Switch Mop glides under furniture and around toilets, saving time and effort while keeping every room in your home cleaner and more organised.

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- ✓ Adjustable handle length
- ✓ Made from sturdy stainless steel and durable plastic

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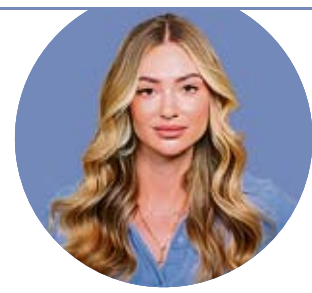
DX1ST



SHOPPING YOUR NEXT BUY

Edited by **ZOE CRIPPS**

MOST WANTED

DEICHMANN X BRIDGERTON

Just in time for Bridgerton season four, Deichmann is serving a collection Lady Featherington herself would wholeheartedly approve of. Inspired by Regency romance, it is full of pastel hues and bow details, with soft blue and butter-yellow sandals and sparkling kitten-heeled slingbacks among the offerings. Perfect for promenading, gossiping or making a grand entrance at your own social season, the limited edition range launches this week in selected stores and online, with shoes from £27.99 and accessories from £9.99.

SPOTLIGHT ON

TRIED & TESTED REVIEW

GARDEN OF LIFE MICROBIOME PROBIOTIC MOOD+, £49.75 FOR 60

Shopping Lead Zoe says: I've been taking these new probiotics for a few weeks now and they've become one of my favourite little wellness habits. The Mood+ ones are specifically formulated to support both gut balance and mood, but the probiotics come in five other versions targeted to women, men, pregnant women and more. They're easy to take, gentle on my stomach and I've definitely noticed I feel calmer and more balanced."

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

Our pick of Valentine's Day buys to add to your wish list

Red Striped Oval Frame, £7 **SAINSBURY'S**

18k Gold Plated Heart Red Garnet ring, £105 **EDGE OF EMBER**

Borg Mule Check Heart Slippers, £15 **NEXT**

Taif Rose Cologne Intense 100ml, £164 **JO MALONE**

Red Scarf Layer Lace Trim Knitted Jumper, £38 **NEXT**

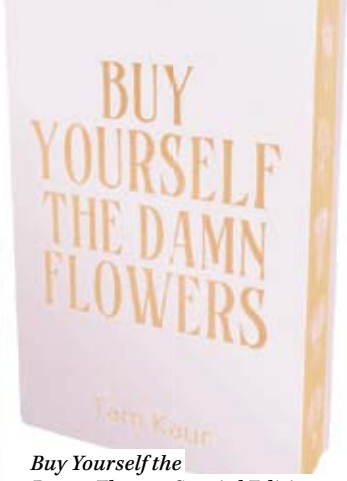
It's All Rosy duo set, £31 **NEOM WELLBEING**

Frill Edge Valentine's Pouch, £16 **ACCESSORIZE**

Baby Face Multiuse Cream Stick, £6 **MCO BEAUTY**

Oxygenated Nail Lacquer in Rouge, £17 **NAILBERRY**

Moet &Chandon Limited Edition Brut Imperial Gift Box, £50 **HARRODS**



Buy Yourself the Damn Flowers Special Edition, £16.99 **TAM KAUR AT FOYLES**

Everything Pocket Selection, £10.95 **HOTEL CHOCOLAT**

TREND REPORT

The "cowboy core" trend, which has dominated fashion in recent years, has now made its way into interiors. From cow print lamps and horse-motif throws to wooden furnishings, subtle Western-themed decor can help to inject some personality into your home without feeling over the top.

GO WILD IN THE COUNTRY

George Home 'Wild Country' collection, from £3.50

This affordable interiors range launches this week at Asda and brings a touch of countryside charm into the home, inspired by wide-open landscapes and rustic living. With rich earthy tones, Western-inspired prints and cosy textures across bedding, cushions and home accessories, highlights range from the Cow Print Rug, £32, to the Western Frill Cushion, £10 (both pictured).

COWBOYS AND ANGELS

The Very Collection Western collection, from £8

This season you'll find plenty of cowboy core essentials at Very.co.uk. With a focus on wooden accessories that look like one-of-a-kind pieces, and cushions, throws and carpets with plenty of texture, your living space will be transformed in no time. Standouts include the Issac Large Sideboard, £299, and Wood Turned Table Lamp, £80 (both pictured).

TOP 5

KEEP YOUR LIPS HYDRATED THIS WINTER WITH THESE BALMY FORMULAS...

GLOW RECIPE LIP GLASS BALM STRAWBERRY, *£19*
Choose from a mix of berry colours and coat your lips with its hyaluronic acid-packed formula.

PRIMARK PS LIP BUTTER BALM IN COCOA, *£2.50*
It's well worth making a trip to your local Primark to pick up this shea butter-infused buttery balm.

CATRICE LIP JAM HYDRATING LIP GLOSS, *£3.49*
It feels like a gloss but it has lip-loving ingredients like coconut oil and mango butter to keep dryness at bay.

NIVEA GLOWY LIP TUBE, *£4.99*
With hyaluronic acid and vitamin E, this tube provides the comfort of a balm with the shine of a gloss.

SUMMER FRIDAYS LIP BUTTER BALM IN BIRTHDAY CAKE, *£23*
Splash out on this beauty editor-loved balm that has hydrating properties and a touch of iridescent baby pink colour.

DX1ST

PAMPERED PETS

Our vet **DAVID GRANT** *works his magic*

Is my older cat in pain?

Q You have previously mentioned that cats are adept at hiding illness and particularly pain. I have an 11-year-old cat and I would like to know if there are any pointers to a cat being under the weather, or in pain?

A Some of the more serious illnesses are obvious, usually with a complete loss of appetite or signs such as difficulty in eating, loss in weight, sneezing, coughing and runny eyes, for example.

But many other signs are subtle and require good owner observational skills and a knowledge of what is normal for their cat. Increased sleeping is an important sign, but difficult to recognise if you don't know what is normal for your cat.

Many cats around your cat's age will sleep or rest for 14-18 hours. Any increase above this could prompt a vet consultation.

Many illnesses that present at this age are painful. Signs of some of these are quite obvious such as painful dental and mouth problems. Other painful conditions in older cats include arthritis (very common), ear disease, abdominal diseases and blocked bladders.

'Many other signs are subtle'

However, as you mention, cats are adept at hiding signs. These could include a hunched-up appearance, stiffness, not wanting to jump up, and crying when picked up, or being unusually grumpy when stroked.

University of Montreal vets have devised a pain assessment tool for cats based on facial expressions, search "Feline Grimace Scale".

This is validated, reliable and used for picking up acute pain signs. It is available for vets and cat owners as a free app.

Q Our six-year-old rescue greyhound settled in very well since we got him six months ago. Fireworks scared him during Guy Fawkes Night and this got worse on New Year's Eve with very loud bangers. He was in a terribly anxious state. What can we do to help and perhaps even prevent this in future?

A Firework phobias are common and upsetting for all concerned. Dogs that find loud bangs intolerable may pant, tremble, hide, bark or whine, and become very restless. Major animal charities such as the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and others are actively lobbying the government to control firework sales and prevent this suffering.

It's sensible to be thinking about prevention, since even with sedatives, the problem may get worse each year. Most pet owners only go to the vet at the last moment for emergency treatment.

Compared to a few years ago, vets have more options for dealing with distressed dogs, both general commonsense advice, along with drugs specifically licensed for firework noise. But these are only short- term measures.

For a long-lasting solution there are behavioural programmes that have been shown in studies to work in more than 90% of dogs.

I recommend the "Sounds Scary" programme, from Dogs Trust. Essentially, it aims to desensitise dogs to loud sounds followed by counter conditioning to associate the noise with treats.

Now is the best time to start, before the fireworks return, ideally with your vet and a behaviourist working together.

Expect improvement within two months, but sometimes longer. Patience, consistency and expert support is key.

David Grant has been a vet for more than 50 years. Email questions to him at pamperedpets@reachplc.com. He cannot enter into individual correspondence.

BEATRICE STRIPE BOX PET BED
£35, Dunelm

BEAT THE BLUES

As we (finally) say goodbye to January it's time to beat the blues with our favourite pet picks that are guaranteed to bring some colour, joy and fun to your every day

Compiled by **FAITH RICHARDSON**

FETCH DOG WALKING BAG
£21, Sophie Allport

BRIGHTSIDE CLASSIC SLIM DOG COLLAR BY HOLLY&LIL
£58, Charley Chau

FESTIVAL FLORAL PACKAWAY DOG COAT
£18 - £23, Joules

NORTHWOODS CAT TREE
£89.99, Wayfair

DOG STARTER KIT
£7.99, Homesense

MAD PETS DOG SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
£11.99, Mad Beauty

TREAT TIME EMBROIDERED DIAMOND LARGE TREAT BAG
£9.50, Oliver Bonas

MUSHROOM CAT SCRATCHING POST
£30.99, Wayfair

PERSONALISED SPANIEL WATER BOWLS
£40, Habulous

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Easy-To-Use Samsung Smartphone.

> “It’s everything I need in a phone – simple, smart and reassuringly easy to use – Sandra, 76, N. Yorks”

Make every day simpler with the Samsung Galaxy A16 Easology — a smartphone reimagined to make life easier. Whether you’re new to smartphones or just want something more intuitive, this smartphone balances clarity with performance. Your essentials sit front and centre on a personalised home screen, with quick calling to four favourite contacts. Large readable text, bold icons and generous touch areas keep every interaction calm and stress-free. If you ever feel lost, a dedicated ‘Home’ button takes you back instantly. Powered by Samsung, the Galaxy A16 Easology delivers a vivid screen, long-lasting battery and ample storage — with clear audio and a sleek design that feels just right. It’s **Smart Made Easy.**

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
INSIDE THE FACTORY
BBC1, 8PM

THE GOOD SHIP MURDER, 5, 9PM

THE ship docks tonight in Valletta, capital of Malta, so the passengers can disembark, stroll around this beautiful city, take in its historic sights and, of course, get murdered. Not all of them, obviously, just a chap who's holidaying with his wife and brother.

Disappointingly, I haven't been able to see a full preview of this episode, so I can't tell you the latest song that Shayne Ward's character, copper-turned-cruise singer Jack, performs in his customary cabaret act at the end, to the joy of those in the audience who aren't yet dead. But I'll hazard a guess it's Paranoid by Black Sabbath.

GREAT BRITISH RAILWAY JOURNEYS, BBC4, 7PM

MICHAEL Portillo is on his way to Chelsea... not on a season-long loan, but as part of this episode from 2023, where he takes in various points between London's Waterloo and The Regent's Park.

His tube ride to Chelsea's Sloane Square station is so he can find out more about legendary cookery writer Elizabeth David, who moved there after the war and stayed for her remaining 45 years (in Chelsea, I mean, not at the tube station.) He also takes a spin on the London Eye. That's thirty-nine quid, by the way, unless you book in advance. Or unless you're making an episode of Great British Railway Journeys, I'd imagine.

ALL SYSTEMS MOW
Cherry at Wembley Stadium

THE LAWN ARRANGER AND PRONTO

THE most interesting bit of this week's Inside The Factory is the bit that doesn't happen inside a factory. It happens at Wembley Stadium, which co-host Cherry Healey, upon arrival, refers to as "the home of English football", presumably because she's never been to the Amex.

Cherry is there because this week's episode is about lawnmowers (yes, I draw your attention to all the big TV drama, don't I?). That's why co-host Paddy McGuinness is at the Hayter factory in Hertfordshire, to see how it knocks out 15,000 mowers a year.

The specific model, whose manufacture he's following, is the Harrier 56, since you ask. That would probably be my favourite, although I can't say for sure as I don't have a lawn. And Cherry is at Wembley because? Well, because Wembley has a legendary lawn. "Some people are on the lawn, they think it's all over," a famous commentator once famously commentated, more or less.

Excitingly, she's there just two days before the FA Cup Final, when mowing that lawn is extra important. And she's about to learn so much, as are we. Did you know, for example, that the Wembley pitch (sorry, I'm bored with pretending it's called a lawn now) is mown every day? Did you also know that on Cup Final day it's mown a second time, and then, flipping heck, a third?

See, I told you this was interesting. Also, it's not entirely grass. It's got lots of bits of plastic in it. Ones that are meant to be there, I mean, not like the ones in the sea.

Karl Standley, Wembley's grounds manager, tells her this stops it disintegrating into a mudbath. Each Wembley pitch, we also learn, is grown on a massive scale at a turf nursery in a "top-secret location".

Once a year, having done its job, the current pitch is torn up and turned into benches. Yes, benches! It's like magic.

A new one is then put down, which takes five days. And Karl's team's job is to maintain it at a length of precisely 23mm. "There are millions of blades of grass out there," says Karl. "Each one of them has to be perfect."

Yes, each of them. That's what he says.

Must take him a wee while to check.

BEST TRAVEL TIPS

BARGAIN HOLIDAY SECRETS, C4, 8PM

This new five-part series hosted by Jasmine Harman, offers viewers tips on securing flights, hotels, food and perks in various destinations for less than the original price.

BEST DOCUMENTARY

SIN CITY: THE REAL LAS VEGAS, BBC3, 10.15PM

In this two-part series, reporter Tir Dhondy finds out how Las Vegas has reinvented itself and what this new and improved version of Sin City offers today's visitors.

BEST SITCOM

TRYING, BBC1, 10.40 & 11.05PM

Rafe Spall and Esther Smith return for a second series. Nikki and Jason are looking for a child to adopt but find the ones they connect to are going to other couples.

BEST SPORT

EFL CUP LIVE, ITV1, 7.30PM

Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the semi-final, second-leg tie from Emirates Stadium between Arsenal and Chelsea. The first leg ended 3-2 to the Gunners.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain: Holidays (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in London, Crewe and County Durham.
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The team searches for a 30-year-old wedding ring. (R)
2.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence A local bakery. (R)
3.00 Escape to the Country Helping a house-hunter escape to Nottinghamshire.
3.45 Clean It, Fix It The team declutters and reorganises Darren and Lydia's flat. (R)
4.30 Antiques Road Trip Margie Cooper and Danny Sebastian's antique hunt reaches the Lake District, where items of interest include a big and brassy piece of door furniture and a familiar bust.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, with guest co-host Konnie Huq. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.30am Antiques Road Trip (R)
7.15 Bargain Hunt (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Monty Don's Rhineland Gardens (R)
9.00 BBC News
12.15pm Politics Live
1.00 Bridge of Lies Quiz. (R)
1.45 Unbeatable Quiz. (R)
2.15 The Boss Quiz show. (R)
3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse The dealers are in Villeneuve-les-Avignon. (R)
3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA With Kelsey Grammer. (R)
4.15 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands The wildlife of the east Asian country, beginning on the island of Honshu. (R)
5.15 Flog It! From Layer Marney Tower in rural Essex. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Fatiha El-Ghorri, Patrick Grant, Mr Motivator and Lauren Oakley take part.
6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure In Abeokuta, Clive tests his basketball skills on the court with a coach, before attending the birthday party of a local Gospel singer.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion.
12.30pm Loose Women Debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal The team are at the National Motorcycle Museum in Solihull, where James Layte explains what a knob carrier is and a visitor brings in a rare set of Beatles autographs. (R)
3.00 Time Is Money Sara Davies hosts the quiz in which contestants are given their prize money before they have answered a question.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow, hosted by Stephen Mulhern.
5.00 The Chase Peter, Sarah, Rosie and Shane take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the sitcom. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S An iconic BMW. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown Dr Ranj Singh is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun Craig Rowe helps Maria and Paul find a property in Andalusia. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Chateau owners Sharon and David roll out the red carpet for a hen party in France. And Italian bureaucracy threatens to derail Stephen's dream.
5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream Donna and Paul Newman join Max McMurdo to judge attic snugs, before the first elimination of the second heat takes place.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Jean Johansson helps Maggy and Lion, who are searching for a permanent place in the historic region of Umbria in Italy.

5

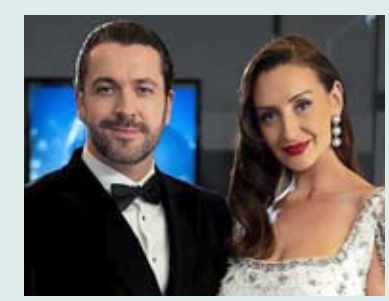
6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Jean tries to find out who is responsible for attacking a night watchman. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Matt and Andy trial their bar's Halloween event, Wayne and Lisa hunt for a dream home and Alex rallies Pearly Kings and Queens for charity.
5.00 5 News at 5
6.00 Love Nature A look at the Pollinator Pathways Project in Bristol that is transforming the alleyways by encouraging the community to remove litter and replace it with plants.
6.05 The Motorway A collision at rush hour brings the M66 to a standstill, and patrollers Martin and Gavin have to get the queue off the motorway. (R) Followed by 5 News Update

8pm, INSIDE THE FACTORY: Paddy McGuinness

7pm, RICK STEIN'S AUSTRALIA: Rick Stein

5pm, THE CHASE: Bradley Walsh

5pm, CHATEAU DIY: WIN THE DREAM: Paul and Donna



9pm, THE GOOD SHIP MURDER: Shayne Ward & Catherine Tyldesley

7

7.00 The One Show With Alex Jones and Lauren Laverne.
7.30 EastEnders Worried Linda asks Phil to intervene to support Julie, but is shocked when Julie explains he was going to take Nigel to Portugal without telling her.

7.00 Rick Stein's Australia Rick travels south into the Riverina, a region that has been transformed from barren plains into one of Australia's most important food bowls. Shaped by irrigation and enriched by migration.

7.30 *LIVE* **EFL Cup** Arsenal v Chelsea (kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the semi-final second-leg tie from Emirates Stadium. The first leg at Stamford Bridge ended 3-2 to the Gunners in a thrilling encounter that saw Arsenal go two goals ahead twice before Chelsea fought back. Ben White and Viktor Gyokeres had given Mikel Arteta's side a 2-0 lead before Alejandro Garnacho halved the deficit. Martin Zubimendi had then made it 3-1 to Arsenal in the 71st minute, but Garnacho struck again with seven minutes remaining to give Chelsea a fighting chance in this second leg. With analysis from Karen Carney and Ian Wright, commentary by Sam Matterface and Lee Dixon, and interviews with Gabriel Clarke.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 Supermarket Own-Brands: The Big Taste Test The world of special buys, which includes a variety of items such as canoes, tents, barbecues, fancy pastries, cleaning products, and more. (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 Inside the Factory In the final episode of the series, Paddy McGuinness follows the construction of a lawnmower at a factory in Hertfordshire. Cherry Healey learns how the Wembley pitch is prepared for the FA Cup.

8.00 Your Home Made Perfect Architects Damion Burrows and Lynsey Elliott compete to help a couple who say their Rickmansworth home has a cramped kitchen and no comfortable downstairs space. (R)

8.00 *NEW* **Bargain Holiday Secrets** Jasmine Harman presents this guide to holidaying for less, beginning with cruises – from when to book, where and when to go and how to slash the cost of a cabin, food, drink and trips.

8.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Graeme Hall helps a Reverend in London stop his dog putting off potential parishioners and ex-firefighter needs help to control their Deerhound Boris. Meanwhile, a fiddling Frenchie needs expert help.

9

9.00 Silent Witness Part two of two. Nikki and Jack investigate the apparent suicide of Sgt Andrews, while Jason tries to reconcile with Alice's family. Crime drama, starring Emilia Fox, David Caves and Dino Fetscher.

9.00 QI XL Extended edition of the comedy panel game. Sandi Toksvig looks at a welter of QI 'whatnots'. With guests Sally Phillips, Andrew Maxwell and Joanne McNally joining Alan Davies. Last in series.
9.45 Live at the Apollo Kiri Pritchard-McLean welcomes comedians Eshaan Akbar and Angela Barnes to London's Hammersmith Apollo stage. Last in series.

9.00 24 Hours in Police Custody The police investigate an apparently unprovoked shooting that has left a man fighting for his life, and encounter a woman who reports being threatened by the suspect. (R)

9.00 The Good Ship Murder When the ship docks in Valletta, Malta, two brothers head out on a scavenger hunt around the capital city, but things take a deadly turn when the eldest sibling is found dead. Shayne Ward stars.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 *NEW* **Trying** Double bill. Comedy drama about a couple in the process of adopting. Penny gives them an insider tip for a suitable match; Jason and Nikki both receive a setback. Rafe Spall and Esther Smith star.

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events, with Victoria Derbyshire; Weather

10.25 ITV News at Ten; Weather A fresh perspective on the major stories of the day, featuring a comprehensive round-up of national and international news, with reports and analysis from ITV's correspondents.

10.00 999: What Happened Next The investigation into a spree of violent attacks that all took place in a single morning in Peterborough. Plus, how the death of a young woman in a car crash in south Wales led police into an inquiry.

10.00 Street Cops: Catching the Yobs Officers race to arrest drug dealers, police call in armed response as they try decommission a potentially lethal shooter, and officers raid a suspected criminal gang's stronghold. (R)

11

11.40 *FILM* **The Notebook** (2004, 12) An elderly man reads a love story to a woman in a nursing home, from an old notebook full of sentimental scribblings about passionate young couple Allie and Noah, whose fledgling affair in the 1940s is smothered almost before it has begun. Romantic drama, starring Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams, Gena Rowlands and James Garner. ★★★★

11.00 Lover, Liar, Predator Documentary following four women who discovered they had each been coercively controlled by the same man, and joined forces to end their nightmare and bring him to justice. (R)

11.00 Regional News; Weather
11.10 Lucy Letby: Beyond Reasonable Doubt? Anouk Curry reports on the conviction of the former nurse, featuring the views of scientists who say the prosecution case does not stand up to scrutiny.

11.10 Manhunt Greater Manchester Police's Major Incident Team spring into action when three suspects vanish after a stabbing on a busy street leaves a 24-year-old dead. The team call in specialist officers to find the fugitives. (R)

11.05 Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law At Vauxhall, revenue protection officers from South Western Railway are involved in a major sting operation which prompts an investigation into fraud going back seven months. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

1.35am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.40-6.00am BBC News

12.30am Sign Zone: Inside the Factory. The secrets of Special K cereal. (R) **1.30** Sign Zone: What We Do in the Shadows (R) **1.55** Sign Zone: Can You Keep a Secret? (R) **2.25** Sign Zone: The Apprentice (R) **3.30** Sign Zone: The Apprentice: Unfinished Business (R) **4.00-6.15am** This Is BBC Two

12.15am Shop on TV **3.00** Killer in the House: The Murders of Lesley Howell and Trevor Buchanan. Examining the case of one of the UK's most notorious double murders, when two married people having an affair decided to kill their spouses. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

12.05am Secret Genius. Double bill. People from across the UK put their brain power to the test. (R) **2.00** Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R) **2.45** The Last Leg (R) **3.40** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **4.30** Kirstie's House of Craft (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

12.05am Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Friends: double bill (R) **3.45** Rich House, Poor House (R) **4.35** Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Georgia and Tommy: Baby Steps **9.20** The Only Way Is Essex **10.20** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.15** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.05** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Katie extends an olive branch.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Famous former Islanders get another shot at finding love.

10.05 Grosse Pointe Garden Society Catherine's attempts to rebuild her marriage take a sexy turn.

11.05 Family Guy Animated double bill.

12.05am American Dad!: double bill **1.05** Bob's Burgers **2.05** Plebs **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Millionaire Hot Seat. Quiz, with Jeremy Clarkson. **4.00** Time Is Money. Quick-fire quiz where contestants are given their prize money up-front. **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Ryan takes on the Banker.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Adil Ray hosts the game in which contestants try to find words from the fewest letters possible.

9.00 Wheel of Fortune Graham Norton hosts the gameshow as Hannah, Samuel and Sophie compete to solve word puzzles to get the chance to spin the wheel and win big money prizes.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz show in which four players take on an extraordinary machine in the hope of winning the 10,000 pound jackpot.

12.55am Tenable. A family team of five join forces to take on the Tenable Tower. **1.50** Unwind with ITV

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up News stories.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 The Weakest Link Featuring Russell Kane, Kriss Akabusi, Maisie Adam, Dan Snow, Nina Wadia.

8.15 Alan Carr's Picture Slam Contestants from Paisley, London and Brighton identify images.

9.00 RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World The queens breathe new life into old looks in the Runway Ru-Mix.

10.15 Sin City: The Real Las Vegas Double bill of the documentary.

11.45 Matthew Perry and the Ketamine Queen Examining events leading up to the actor's death.

12.45am *FILM* Bones and All (2022, 18) Horror romance, with Taylor Russell and Timothee Chalamet. ★★★ **2.50** Sin City: The Real Las Vegas **3.35** Long Story Short: Pineapple **3.45-4.00am** Long Story Short: Jealous People Are Ugly People

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo visits several famous locations in London.

7.30 Coastal Path Paul Rose sets off to walk all 630 miles of the South West Coast Path.

8.00 Yes, Prime Minister Hacker plans to cut arts funding.

8.30 Yes, Prime Minister Jim decides to save money by getting rid of the Department of Education.

9.00 Queen Elizabeth I: A Timewatch Guide Vanessa Collingridge examines the life of Elizabeth Tudor, with a focus on how the BBC have looked at her legacy.

10.00 Price of Gold – Storyville A professional figure skating scandal.

11.15 The Great American Buffalo Saving the buffalo from extinction.

1.10am Great British Railway Journeys. In London. **1.40** Coastal Path **2.10-3.10am** Wild China

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews. Guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition More debates on the news.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

7.10am James May's Things You Need to Know **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** How Britain Worked **11.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Road to Mexico

7.00 Would I Lie to You? Comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon

7.45 Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of entertainment.

9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Katherine Ryan hosts, with panellists Andy Hamilton and Cariad Lloyd.

10.00 QI XL Extended edition. With Julian Clary, Ross Noble and Bill Bailey.

11.00 Taskmaster Comedian Russell Howard makes a convincing liger.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? – The Unseen Bits **1.20** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Silence Is Golden **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.30** The Bill **8.25** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine Triple bill.

8.00 Harry Wild A mystery novelist is found dead in a locked panic room with no gun.

9.00 Whitstable Pearl A 30-year-old skeleton with a very personal connection to Pearl washes up in Whitstable.

10.00 New Tricks A DNA sample from a rebellious teenager provides a link to the murder of an interpreter four years earlier, while Steve brings his dying father to London to stay in a hospice.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part two of two. Boyd targets a drugs deal.

12.40am Sister Boniface Mysteries **1.40** The Thin Blue Line **2.25** Last of the Summer Wine **2.55** Art Detectives **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine: double bill

6.00 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.00 Hollyoaks John Paul calls in a favour.

7.30 The Simpsons Surveillance cameras are installed in Springfield.

8.00 First Dates Voice-over artist Ingrid is paired with cinema operator Simon.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill of the households' opinions on recent TV

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Claude and Amy seek deep emotional connections and gratification.

12.05am Naked Attraction **1.10** First Dates **2.15** Gogglebox **3.10** Naked Attraction **4.00** The Goldbergs **4.50-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me Paralympics Special: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S. An Austin Healey is secretly fixed up in Co Durham.

6.55 Car S.O.S Double bill. The boys head to Essex to secretly fix a '70s supercar; Tim and Fuzz restore a Ferrari 308 GTS.

9.00 Saving Country Houses with Penelope Keith At Chavenage House in the Cotswolds, James Lowsley-Williams starts to rescue a derelict and overgrown pond with chainsaws, diggers and tractors.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill. A man is brought in after falling off his ladder while gardening; a motorcyclist who lost control and went over the handlebars.

12.10am Saving Country Houses with Penelope Keith **1.10** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20-3.50am** Supermarkets Unwrapped: The Snacks Aisle

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.40** *NEW* The Truth About My Murder. a murder at Wentwood Forest in 1996. **11.20** *NEW* Trying **11.50** Trying **12.20am** The Traitors Ireland **1.10-6.00am** BBC News

WALES As BBC2 except: 1.45pm First Minister's Questions **2.45** Unbeatable **3.15** The Boss **4.00** The Vintage French Farmhouse **4.45-5.15** Who Do You Think You Are? USA. With Kelsey Grammer. **8.00** Weatherman Walking **8.30-9.00pm** SOS: Extreme Rescues

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian; Weather **11.00-11.10pm** ITV News Meridian. The latest news headlines; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central; Weather **11.00-11.10pm** ITV News Central. The latest news headlines; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Cymru Wales. Headlines; Weather **11.00** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **11.10** Sharp End **12.10-12.15am** Vanished Wales

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country **11.00-11.10pm** ITV News West Country

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia **11.00-11.10pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **11.00-11.10pm** ITV News West Country

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion **12.05pm** Gwladfa: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **12.30** Heno **1.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **1.30** Ffermio **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cysgu O Gwmpas **6.30** Sgorio **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Dwr Du: Trychineb y Sea Empress **10.00** *NEW* Amour & Mynydd **10.30** Taith Bywyd **11.30pm-12.05am** Y Fets

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Deadline Day. Transfer deadline day.
7.00 LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** Coverage of the first semi-final from Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
3.00pm LIVE **Tennis** The WTA and/or ATP Tours.
5.00 The Premier League Show. A daily guide.
7.00 LIVE **EFL Cup** Arsenal v Chelsea (kick-off 8.00pm). The semi-final second-leg tie.
10.45 Transfer 360 **11.15** Sky Sports News
12.00m't LIVE **NBA Basketball** Dallas Mavericks v Boston Celtics (Tip-off 1.00am). The inter-conference match at American Airlines Center.
3.30 Sky Sports News. Live analysis and comment.
4.00-6.00am LIVE **NBA Basketball** Portland Trail Blazers v Phoenix Suns (Tip-off 4.00am).

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am ICC Men's T20 World Cup
7.00 LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** Coverage of the first semi-final.
3.00pm LIVE **WPL** Coverage of the Eliminator.
5.30 Best of ICC WT20 **5.45** Best of England v South Africa **6.00** SA20 **7.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **8.00** WPL **9.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **10.00** WPL **11.00** WPL **3.30am** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00-6.00am** WPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Retro League One **8.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL **12.00noon** SPFL Round-Up **12.15** SPFL Highlights **12.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **1.30** EFL League One Goals **2.00** EFL League Two Goals **2.30** EFL Highlights **3.00** SPFL Round-Up **3.15** SPFL Highlights **3.30** FIFA Women's Champions Cup **4.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **5.30** WSL **6.00** EFL Cup Highlights **7.00** SPFL Highlights **7.15** SPFL Round-Up
7.30 LIVE **SPFL** St Mirren v Hearts (kick-off 8.00pm). All the action from the Scottish Premiership match at The SMISA Stadium.
10.30 WSL **11.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL Highlights **12.00m't** EFL Cup Highlights. Arsenal v Chelsea. **12.30** EFL **3.30** EFL Greatest Games **4.00-6.00am** EFL Cup Retro

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips **7.00** Best of the Open Zone 2017 **8.00** The Improvers **8.30** DP World Tour Golf **9.00** PGA Tour Golf **10.00** Best of the Open Zone 2024 **11.00** DP World Tour Golf **11.30** PGA Tour Golf
12.30pm TGL **2.30** Best of the Open Zone 2016 **3.30** Best of the Open Zone 2018 **4.30** PGA Tour Golf **5.30** DP World Tour Golf **6.00** PGA Tour Champions **7.00** TGL **9.00** The Big 5 Roundtable **11.00** How the 2012 Ryder Cup Was Won **1.00am** PGA Tour Golf **2.00** Best of the Open Zone 2018 **3.00** The Open – Official Films **4.00** PGA Tour Golf **5.00-6.00am** Best of the Sky Zone

TNT SPORTS 1

8.00am TNT Sports Cricket Reload **8.15** Premier League Review **9.15** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **10.15** UEFA Champions League Magazine **11.15** Premier League Review **12.15pm** International T20 Cricket Highlights
1.15 LIVE **International T20 Cricket** Sri Lanka v England. The third and final T20 in the series from Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy.
5.00 UEFA Champions League Magazine **6.00** Premier League Netbusters **6.30** Premier League Stories **7.00** Original Documentary
7.30 LIVE **Serie A** Bologna v AC Milan (kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the Italian top-flight match from Stadio Renato Dall'Ara.
9.45 Premier League Reload **10.00** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **11.00** Fight Week **11.30** Crouchy and Cole
12.00m't International T20 Cricket Highlights **1.00** Serie A **2.00** Australian Open
5.00-8.00am LIVE **Snooker World Grand Prix** Coverage of the third session from the first day.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am Premier League Review **7.00** Premiership Women's Rugby **8.00** PREM Rugby Cup **9.00** The Breakdown **9.30** Women's T20 Super Smash **10.30** T20 Super Smash **11.30** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **12.00noon** ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights **1.00** Athletes to Watch **3.00** The Gruppetto
3.15 LIVE **UEC Track Cycling Elite European Championship** Coverage from the third day of the event, which takes place in Konya, Turkey.
6.30 Men's Cycling Pro Series **7.30** Athletes to Watch **7.45** Athletes to Watch **8.00** Athletes to Watch **8.15** Athletes to Watch **8.45** Athletes to Watch **9.15** Athletes to Watch **9.30** Athletes to Watch **9.45** Athletes to Watch **10.00** Athletes to Watch **10.15** Athletes to Watch **10.30** Athletes to Watch **10.45** Athletes to Watch **11.00** Athletes to Watch **11.15** Australian Open **2.15am** Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup **3.15** Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup **3.45** Ski Jumping World Cup **4.45** Crouchy and Cole **5.00-6.00am** Serie A

BEST OF THE REST – LIVE SPORT

7.35-9.45pm LIVE **EFL** Sheffield United v Oxford United (kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of all the action from the Championship match taking place at Bramall Lane. (Sky Sports +)

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Foyle's War **11.50** Trial & Retribution **1.25am** The Larkins **2.15-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Sweeney **12.25pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.00** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **12.05am** Dark Side of the Ring **1.00** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **1.55** Minder **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Auto Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **10.00** 999: Critical Condition **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** 999: Killer on the Line **1.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **2.45** Skin A&E **3.35-4.00am** Friends

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Long Lost Family. A woman searching for her father. **10.00** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Traffic Cops **10.00** Police Interceptors **12.00noon** FILM Lonely Are the Brave (1962/PG) ★★★★ **2.10** FILM Hell Bent for Leather (1960/PG) ★★ **4.00** Trucking Heavy **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **10.00** Police: Suspect No 1 **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.05** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am FILM Janine Jansen: Falling for Stradivari (2021/U) ★★★ **7.50** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Anthony Quinn **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** Freddie Mercury: Auction Special **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Joan Crawford **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** The World in a Painting: Velazquez's Chili Pepper **9.15** I Am Raquel Welch **10.55** Peter O'Toole: Along the Sky Road to Aqaba

Live EFL Cup Sky Sports Main Event, 7pm
Ben White (left), Viktor Gyokeres and Martin Zubimendi were on target as Arsenal beat Chelsea 3-2 in the semi-final first leg three weeks ago. Can the Gunners finish the job here?

12.55am Ai Weiwei: The Artivist **2.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **3.00** Mary Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman **4.15** Inside Art: Derek Jarman at Manchester Art Gallery **4.45-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.05** The Green Green Grass **8.45** Dad's Army **9.25** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.15** Only Fools and Horses Christmas Special **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.35** Only Fools and Horses **11.55** Only Fools and Horses Christmas Special **12.35am** Men Behaving Badly **1.15** Avoidance **2.35** The Green Green Grass **3.10-4.00am** Only Fools and Horses

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Flipping Bangers **9.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00m't** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Masters of Reinvention

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** Death in Paradise **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Evil **3.00-4.00am** Far North

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.10** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.10** SEAL Team **6.10** Stargate SG-1. With Amanda Tapping. **8.10** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** FILM Jericho Ridge (2023/15) Trapped and alone, a small-town cop must fight for her life when her remote office is targeted by lethal enemies. Thriller, starring Nikki Amuka-Bird. ★★★ **10.50** Fear the Walking Dead **11.50** The Force: Manchester **2.00am** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am The Guest Wing **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** Succession **11.15** Deadwood **12.20am** The Sopranos **2.25** Game of Thrones **4.35** In Treatment **5.05-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **10.00** Fire Country **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Matlock **3.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.25pm** Will & Grace **1.25** Sex and the City **2.35** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** FILM Movie 43 (2013/15) Anthology of 14 short comedy films, including superheroes going speed dating and the kidnapping of a leprechaun. ★ **10.50** And Just Like That **11.45** Community **12.45am** Entourage **1.45** Ballers **2.20** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.45-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Goblin Works Garage **9.00** Gold Rush: White Water **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How It's Made **5.00** The Woodland Workshop **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush. Parker Schnabel fights to stop his gold slide and Rick Ness makes a discovery. **10.00** Gold Rush. New series. Tensions erupt among the crews as miners battle to bring in big gold. **11.00** Deadliest Catch **1.00am** Gold Rush **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Inside Incredible Machines **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Lost Treasures of Rome **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** Nazi Megastructures **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Secret Nazi Science **4.00** Battle for the Black Swan: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Construction Fails **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Apocalypse: The Rise of Hitler **10.00** Hidden Histories **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.00** Abandoned **2.30** Made in a Day **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Santa Fe (1951/U) Western, starring Randolph Scott and Jerome Courtland. ★★★
12.45pm The Black Arrow (1948/U) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Louis Hayward and Janet Blair. ★★★
2.20 To Hell and Back (1955/PG) Second World War biopic, starring Audie Murphy and Marshall Thompson. ★★★
4.35 Canyon Passage (1946/PG) Western, with Dana Andrews and Brian Donlevy. ★★★★
6.25 Legends of the Fall (1994/15) Period drama, starring Anthony Hopkins. ★★★★
9.00 A Man Called Otto (2022/15) Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★★
11.25 Our Kind of Traitor (2016/15) Spy thriller, starring Ewan McGregor. ★★★
1.35-3.55am The Night of the 12th (2022/15) Crime drama, with Bastien Bouillon. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

7.00am Smurfs (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★
8.35 Beast of War (2025/15) Thriller, starring Mark Coles Smith and Joel Nankervis. ★★
10.10 Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
12.40pm The Naked Gun (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
2.20 Prisoner of War (2025/15) See 11.25pm. ★★★
4.20 The Cut (2024/12) Sports thriller, starring Orlando Bloom and John Turturro. ★★★★
6.10 The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) Comedy drama, starring Tim Key. ★★★★★
8.00 The Naked Gun (2025/15) Comedy reboot, starring Liam Neeson. ★★★★
9.40 Borderline (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★
11.25 Prisoner of War (2025/15) Action thriller, with Scott Adkins and Peter Shinkoda. ★★★
1.25am The Toxic Avenger (2025/18) Comedy horror, starring Peter Dinklage. ★★★
3.15 Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg. ★★★
5.30-6.30am Sky Cinema Preview-Feb 2026

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

5.50pm The Blind Side (2009/12) Drama, with Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron. ★★★★
8.00 An Officer and a Gentleman (1982/15) Romantic drama, starring Richard Gere, Debra Winger and Louis Gossett Jr. ★★★
10.05 Legends of the Fall (1994/15) Drama, with Anthony Hopkins and Brad Pitt. ★★★★
12.20am Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007/12) Drama, starring Cate Blanchett. ★★★★
2.20 The Bridges at Toko-Ri (1954/U) Adventure, with William Holden. ★★★★
4.15-6.20am Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970/15) Western, starring Clint Eastwood and Shirley MacLaine. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.20pm Harold and the Purple Crayon (2024/PG) Family adventure, starring Zachary Levi and Lil Rel Howery. ★★★
6.00 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004/PG) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. ★★★★
8.00 The Golden Child (1986/PG) Comedy fantasy adventure, starring Eddie Murphy, Charles Dance and Charlotte Lewis. ★★
9.45 The Wiz (1978/U) Musical based on The Wizard of Oz, starring Diana Ross. ★★
12.05am The Karate Kid (1984/12) Martial arts drama, starring Ralph Macchio, Pat Morita and Elisabeth Shue. ★★★★
2.20 Bookworm (2024/12) Comedy, starring Elijah Wood and Nell Fisher. ★★★
4.15-6.00am My Penguin Friend (2024/PG) Drama, starring Jean Reno, Alexia Moyano and Adriana Barraza. ★★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

5.00pm Doctor in Clover (1966/PG) Comedy, starring James Robertson Justice. ★★★★
6.55 The Man from UNCLE
8.00 The Doll
9.05 Count Dracula
10.45pm Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense
12.20am Valentino (1951/PG) Biopic of the silent movie star, with Anthony Dexter. ★★★
2.25 Carnival of Souls (1962/15) Horror, starring Candace Hilligoss. ★★★
4.00-5.00am Target: The Corruptors

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder
5.00 Murder, She Wrote
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye
7.00 Castle
8.00 Unforgettable
9.00 An Aurora Teagarden Mystery: A Bone to Pick (2015/PG) Whodunit, with Candace Cameron Bure and Peter Benson. ★★★
10.55 Garage Sale Mysteries: The Wedding Dress (2015/PG) Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin and Cheryl Ladd. ★★★
12.50am A Lover Betrayed (2017/12) Thriller, with Jamie Luner and Jason Brooks. ★★★
2.35 A Teacher's Obsession (2015/PG) Thriller, starring Molly Hagan and Boti Bliss. ★★★
4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Emil **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Martha **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix: Chilled D&B **1.30** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems with Matt and Mollie **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** OJ Borg **6.30** OJ Borg's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **8.45** Radio 2 Piano Room **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** Connor Phillips **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00-6.30am** Jason Mohammad

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Erik Chisholm **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Almost Famous **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
Drama: This Thing Of Darkness Radio 4, 2.15pm
Frances Poet's five-part drama stars Lolita Chakrabarti as Dr Alex Bridges, an expert forensic psychiatrist and psychotherapist, who assesses and treats the perpetrators of serious crime. She takes us into the world of secure units, exploring the impact of fatal violence on the lives that it shatters.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** Ransom Man **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Screenshot **11.45** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.00noon** News **12.04** Call You and Yours **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Sanctuary: An Act of Defiance **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: This Thing of Darkness **3.00** Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley **3.30** Thinking Allowed **4.00** A People's History of Punk **4.30** What's Up Docs? **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** You Heard It Here First **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** The Today Debate **8.40** In Touch **9.00** Crossing Continents **9.30** The Bottom Line **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The White Lady of Morecambe **11.00** Bolton: The Happiest Town on Earth? **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** Football **10.30** Tony Livesey **12.00m't** 5 Live News **1.00** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** How Emily Makes an Effort **7.00** Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Justine Jones **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** How Emily Makes an Effort **7.00** Molly Palmer **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents. **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

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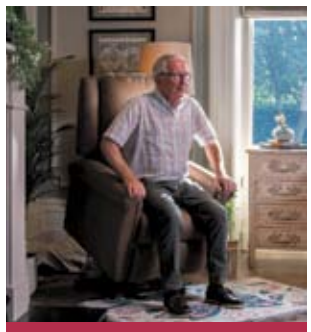

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Lincoln, Bishops Trade Park LN2 4JZ
Nottingham, Castle Park NG2 1AH
Stoke, Tunstall Trade Park ST6 4SE

NORTH
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Hull, Anlaby Trade Park HU10 6RJ
Leeds, Spence Lane LS12 1EF
Newcastle, Blaydon Trade Park NE21 5TR
Preston, 74-76 Blackpool Road PR2 6NY
Sheffield, Unit 3 Burton Street S6 2HH
Warrington, Gemini Trade Park WA5 7YF
York, Unit 5, Marrtree Business Park YO30 4AB

SOUTH COAST
Bournemouth, Vulcan Way BH21 7PT
Brighton, 75 Upper Brighton Rd BN15 0JQ
Eastbourne, Hillier Garden Cntr BN24 5BS
Southampton, Romsey Road SO16 9GJ

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ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Getting along with coworkers will be easy when everyone is going out of their way to be pleasant. At work, you could receive a raise or some compliments. If you're currently unemployed, take a look at vacancies. Your positive energy could spark new connections, making this a day full of potential. Take part in activities that uplift your spirits.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You are ready to go that extra mile to achieve a professional goal. Your confidence is high and you believe in your ability to succeed. It remains your responsibility to put in the groundwork to reach your objectives. This is something that comes naturally. Embrace the drive within you and let your ambitions lead the way to even greater accomplishments.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

Travelling will sound appealing. You have a strong urge to escape from it all. A change of environment and different activities are what you crave. Some unusual topics will be brought up and you will want to find out more. Embrace these discussions, as they may open up unexpected avenues of thought, sparking your curiosity further.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

You will be warmly welcomed into a new group. Someone you are introduced to will share many of your interests and it will feel as if you have known each other forever. A sense of belonging brings a warm feeling inside. Cherish these connections, as they may lead to lasting friendships. You could soon be doing some home entertaining.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Today has the potential to be wonderful but how great really depends on you. There is something you need to get off your chest. Once you've explained what's been bothering you, unwind and enjoy whatever brings you happiness. You might choose to socialise. Embrace the little joys that come your way, as they will add brightness to your day.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

Just because others believe something doesn't make it necessarily so. If you disagree with someone's views, express your thoughts and share your perspective. Cosmic energies suggest you aren't the only one with doubts and by speaking up you will inspire others to join you. Don't hesitate to question the prevailing opinion. Your voice carries weight.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

You won't say no to the chance to travel for pleasure. Look for opportunities in fields such as higher education, medicine, publishing and law. Someone from a different culture will introduce you to an interesting hobby. To learn more, you will be spending a lot of time together, discovering skills and dreams that will enrich your connections.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Someone close is spending a lot of time dwelling on the past and this is getting you down. You need to persuade them to forget past mistakes in order to concentrate more on positive opportunities that await you both. There will be many of these ahead. Emphasise the joy of creating new memories together, as the future holds promise and excitement.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AMAL CLOONEY
Born on this day, 1978

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

A close and intimate relationship is growing stronger. A new romance that starts now is likely to be a passionate one and this will have a lasting impact on you. New friendships and relationships will change you in profound ways. Financial gains are on the horizon. Allow yourself to fully immerse in the experiences that come your way.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Business dealings will go well. Have faith in your money-making ideas. You might decide to go after a new job or find ways to improve your current position. If you're shopping, you will find some great items online for yourself. Embrace this wave of positive energy, as it could lead to delightful surprises in your financial landscape.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Trust your intuition. If you feel someone isn't to be trusted, steer clear. If avoiding them isn't an option and you feel trapped, look for a way to exit as soon as possible. Remember, the energy you surround yourself with matters greatly. Sometimes it is better to withdraw than to hold your position and this is one of those times.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Whether you choose to work independently or behind the scenes, you will achieve good results. It's possible you will get the chance to retreat and focus on your own concerns. You might want to shield yourself from the fast-paced environment around you. Embrace this opportunity for introspection, as it may lead to unexpected insights.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge – maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.31

The birds line up. Their King struts past. "Now I can show myself at last!"

The Penguin King inspects his ranks. "Go, spread the news! And many thanks!"

"Now the time has come to show myself – thanks to this little bear," proclaims the King Penguin. Instantly the cave echoes with shrill squeaks of delight from the other penguins who are tired of being cooped up. With a graceful wave, the King offers Rupert his throne then waddles down the steps to inspect his followers. At last he turns to Rupert, saying, "Go, little bear! Spread the news!" Rupert murmurs, "I've just time to tell Captain Chubb."

CALVIN AND HOBBES BILL WATTERSON

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW AGAINST HAVING SCHOOL ON DAYS WHEN THERE'S ENOUGH SNOW TO PLAY IN.
OF COURSE, I DON'T THINK THERE SHOULD BE SCHOOL IN AUTUMN. EITHER ... AND SUMMER'S OUT ALREADY.... AND THEN THERE'S SPRING..
I GUESS I'D GO TO SCHOOL A DAY IN NOVEMBER AND A DAY IN MARCH.
BY SECOND GRADE, YOU'D BE PACKING YOUR LUNCH BOX WITH DENTURE CLEANERS.
AND BEFORE I GOT TO THIRD GRADE, I COULD RETIRE.

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BT Group	192½	+1¼
Centrica	191¾	+1
Convatec Group	232	+2
GSK	1925	+48½
Haleon	382¾	+3¾
HSBC Holdings	1305	+19½
Int Consolidated Airlines	433¼	+15
Lloyds Banking Group	111½	+2½
Marks & Spencer Group	370	+4
National Grid	1240½	+6
NatWest Group	684	+18¾
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1230½	+19½
Saga	550	+30
Sainsbury (J)	323	+2½
Tesco	431½	+6¼
Unilever	4992	+51½
Vodafone Group	109¼	+1¾
Whitbread	2747	+23

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

BAE Systems	1922	-52
BP	461¾	-2
Shell	2779½	-14½

WORLD MARKETS

WALL STREET	49,407.6	▲ +515.1
TOKYO	52655.2	▼ -667.7
HONG KONG	26775.6	▼ -611.5
GERMANY	24797.5	▲ +258.7
FRANCE	8181.2	▲ +54.6

STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.366	▼ -0.002
Yen	212.413	▲ +0.613
Euro	1.157	▲ +0.002

DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	155.484	▲ +0.7093
Dollar/Euro	0.847	▲ +0.0028

COMMODITIES

GOLD($)	▼ 4603.78
KRUGERRAND(£)	▼ 3376.61
SILVER(pence)	▼ 5600.12
BRENT CRUDE($)	▼ 66.11

OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index	+2.5%
Unemployment	1,840,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.92 dollar
Canada	1.82 dollar
China	8.92 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.37 koruna
Denmark	8.18 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	10.04 dollar
Hungary	412.51 forint
Israel	4.00 shekel
Japan	203.28 yen
Jordan	0.91 dinar
Mexico	22.63 peso
New Zealand	2.22 dollar
Norway	12.80 krone
Poland	4.62 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.89 riyal
South Africa	21.28 rand
Sweden	11.61 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	41.60 baht
Turkey	55.35 lira
United States	1.35 dollar

Fears salons could shut for good as business rates bite

By **CHRIS DORRELL**

STRUGGLING beauty salons are demanding that extensions to business rates support are applied to them.

Victoria Brownlie, of the British Beauty Council, said without help firms may "pull down their shutters for good".

Profitability at hair and beauty salons had been "hollowed out" by spiralling labour costs and utility bills, with looming changes to business rates set to add further costs, Ms Brownlie added.

Tax rises will cut deep at salons

The intervention is the latest from the retail and hospitality sector on the back of the government's attempt to reform business rates.

A firm's liability is determined by multiplying its rateable value – an estimate of what rent the property would fetch on the open market – with a national multiplier, set by the government.

Although Chancellor Rachel Reeves reduced the multiplier for most businesses in the Budget, the triennial reassessment of property values more than offset the lower multiplier, because property valuations have increased significantly since Covid.

Many retail and hospitality businesses face a "devastating spike" in tax bills from April. While Ms Reeves unveiled a £300million support package for pubs last month, she did not extend it to other areas of hospitality despite intense pressure from the industry.

Ms Brownlie said: "We have witnessed the government's recent announcement to lend further support to pubs, while leaving salons behind. We argue that our sector provides equal social and economic value.

"We urge the Treasury to extend the same level of protection to hair and beauty SMEs as is being considered for pubs."

Many other sectors fear for the future amid the looming business rates changes, including the music industry.

Recording studios have warned some members face a 45% hike, which could lead to closures and potentially forcing British artists to record abroad.

The Treasury said: "We're backing businesses with a £4.3billion Budget package to cap big bill hikes – stopping bills rising for over half of business properties.

"This is on top of capping corporation tax at 25%, cutting red tape and helping deliver six interest rate cuts."

MANUFACTURING BOOM IS JOBS GLOOM

Output hit highest level for 17 months, but staff counts were down

EMPLOYMENT levels across the manufacturing sector dropped despite output jumping to its highest level in 17 months.

Firms continued to shed staff due to high pay and tax hikes, according to S&P Global's latest purchasing managers index.

But the monthly poll showed the highest level of output for almost a year and a half. The index hit 51.8, above the 50 benchmark for no change in production. The score adds to a three-month growth streak, with new orders and shorter delivery times giving bosses a lifeline.

Rob Dobson, director at S&P Global, said: "UK manufacturing made a solid start to 2026, showing encouraging resilience in the face of rising geopolitical tensions. The strongest rise for almost four years was insufficient to fully quell reductions to staff head counts."

Crayola wants to grow in UK

Crayola draws up ambitious plan to boost UK sales

US crayon maker Crayola has pledged to invest millions of pounds in the UK and Ireland, as its boss aims to reignite creativity among kids in the digital age.

The firm, a subsidiary of Hallmark Cards, laid out a three-year plan that aims to double business in the region and involves the launch of new products and marketing campaigns. It follows the opening of a new UK office in Woking, Surrey, creating 23 jobs this month.

Chief executive Pete Ruggiero said Crayola "stands among Apple and Google" on brand recognition, adding: "The brand is colour, the brand is fun, the brand is trust and safety." Mr Ruggiero also said the company was considering shifting its products away from stationery aisles in UK shops.

"The UK is principally a toy aisle penetration opportunity but we're not in the toy aisle at Tesco," he said. "I want to be wherever a consumer is looking for creativity, fun and colour."

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3333	-18	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1915	+10	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	327	+7¾	372¾	135½
Alliance Trust	1270	+14	1324	1050
Anglo American	3450	+42	3500	2003¾
Antofagasta	3640	-8	3786	1383
Ashtead Group	4820#	+133	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	14040	+440	14346	9667
Auto Trader	531¾	-6¼	908½	531
Aviva	651½	+15½	692½	493
Babcock International	1424	-11	1502	538
BAE Systems	1922	-52	2093	1180½
Barclays	499½	+13¼	499¾	241¾
Barratt Development	390¼	+2	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1168	+35	1177	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4158	+38	4324	3524
BP	461¾	-2	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4432#	+56	4460	2965
British Land	414½	-½	420½	321¼
BT Group	192½#	+1¼	222¾	141¾
Bunzl	2056	+8	3448	1989
Burberry Group	1099		1371½	627¾
Centrica	191¾	+1	192¾	135¼
Coca-Cola HBC	4024	+74	4042	2810
Compass Group	2248#	+61	2843	2172
Convatec Group	232	+2	295½	221¼
CRH	9064	+178	9704	6142
Croda International	2720	-8	3344	2465
DCC	4650	+14	5600	4350
Diageo	1669½	-6	2419	1577
Diploma	5375	+55	5685	3624
EasyJet	491	+13¼	587¾	427½
Entain	601¼	-3¾	1022	501¼
Experian Group	2740#	-18	4088	2695
F&C Inv Tst	1257#	+13	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	12125	+160	23630	11760
Fresnillo	3668	-34	4448	696
Games Workshop	17170	+120	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1925	+48½	1927½	1264
Glencore	501	+1¾	508	230
Haleon	382¾	+3¾	415¼	326½
Halma	3554	+10	3710	2360
Hikma	1551	+22	2340	1507
Hiscox	1492	+10	1528	1035
HSBC Holdings	1305	+19½	1305	713¼
IMI	2826	+64	2826	1606
Imperial Brands	3082	+16	3312	2667
Informa	885	+5	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10279¾	-3200¼	10279¾	5435¼
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1804	-11	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4500	+36	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	433¼	+15	437	224½
JD Sports	86¾	+5	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	340¼	+2¾	345	240¼
Land Securities	649½	-1	656½	499½
Legal & General	267½	+2½	268¼	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	111½	+2½	111½	61¼
London & Stamford Prop	200¼	+¼	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	8234	+112	12095	8066
M&G	313	+3½	313	172¾
Marks & Spencer	370	+4	411¼	318½
Melrose	621¼	-4¾	680	386
Mondi	853¾	-¼	1326	819
National Grid	1240½	+6	1255½	919¾
NatWest Group	684	+18¾	684	411¼
Next	13445	+180	14580	9584
Pearson	969½	+12¼	1379	929¾
Pershing Square Hold	4616	+56	5090	3244
Persimmon	1425½	+19½	1449½	1037½
Phoenix Group	748	+8½	750	499¼
Prudential	1206	+1½	1211	655
Reckitt Benckiser	6182#	+90	6218	7½ 5946
RELX	2585	+6	4135	2579
Rentokil Initial	455¼	+4½	480¾	309½
Rightmove	495¼	+1	823¾	494½
Rio Tinto	6802	+64	6849	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1230½	+19½	1305	593½
Sage Group	965½#	+8¼	1348	955
Sainsbury (J)	323	+2½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	455½	+4	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1267	+11½	1276½	815¼
SEGRO	760¼	+1½	766¼	599
Severn Trent	2928		2965	2370
Shell	2779½	-14½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1250½	+8½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2532	+22	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3064	+40	4454	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7355	+90	8095	5445
SSE	2411	-11	2458	1463½
St James's Place	1542½	+22½	1557	791
Standard Chartered	1906	+44	1906	878¾
Tesco	431½	+6¼	475½	314½
Unilever	4992	+51½	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1248#	+1	1265½	944½
Vodafone Group	109¼#	+1¾	109¼	64
Weir Group	3246	+20	3276	1984
Whitbread	2747	+23	3274	2335

Eateries dining out on revenue boost

RESTAURANT firm Various Eateries is eyeing merger and acquisition deals to help drive growth.

Boss Mark Loughborough said the group – which runs 20 venues across the Coppa Club and Noci brands – is looking to continue "real momentum" after strong Christmas trading.

Options could include snapping up other hospitality businesses.

Mr Loughborough added: "Our goal is to build a bigger, better hospitality group by scaling our brands with discipline, investing selectively in the estate and, alongside organic growth, actively assessing high-quality, complementary M&A opportunities."

Various Eateries called recent trading "encouraging" despite a "challenging" hospitality market.

The group reported a revenue jump of 6% to £52.4million in the year to September 2025.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1724	-30	2180	1338
Babcock International	1424	-11	1502	538
BAE Systems	1922	-52	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	501	+2½	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	493½#	-8	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1230½	+19½	1305	593½
Senior	241	-4	253	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	860	+10	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	499½	+13¼	499¾	241¾
Bco Santander	945	+14	956	400½
Close Brothers	505		550½	266½
HSBC Holdings	1305	+19½	1305	713¼
Investec	617	+9	617	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	111½	+2½	111½	61¼
Metro Bank	134½	+1¼	135½	81
NatWest Group	684	+18¾	684	411¼
Paragon Group	894	+6	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1906	+44	1906	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	650	+12	711	593
Coca-Cola HBC	4024	+74	4042	2810
Diageo	1669½	-6	2419	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	52	-3½	80	21
Croda International	2720	-8	3344	2465
Elementis	166	+4½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2300#	-60	2388	1156
Synthomer	53	-½	156½	46
Treatt	206½	+2½	444	186½
Victrex	649#	-7	1048	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	731	+17	735	390½
Costain Group	179½	+2½	180	94
CRH	9064	+178	9704	6142
Dialight	331	-2	364	101
Galliford Try	538	+14	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	396	+10	538	320
Keller Group	1818	+46	1818	1240
Kier Group	230	+6½	231½	115¼
Marshalls	158	+1½	293	155
Morgan Sindall	5100	+170	5100	2945
Severfield-Rowen	29	+2	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½		139	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	912½	+11½	918	536½
SSE	2411	-11	2458	1463½
Telecom Plus	1326	-6	2085	1312
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	635	+1	738	486
Halma	3554	+10	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments	2510	-5	2540	1500
Renishaw	3790	-10	3875	2145
TT Electronics	117½	+5½	154	73
XP Power	1254	+14	1260	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	382	-2	384	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1698	+18	1698	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1270	+14	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	274	+1	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	263½	+3	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	896	-8	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	135	-½	138½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	133½#	+1	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	417	+3	417½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1225	+20	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	891	-24	1022	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	28	+¼	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1460	+20	1490	1140
Caledonia Inv.	367½	-5½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	366	-25	435	165¾
City Of London	555#	+6	555	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	309	+1	312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	230	+4½	231	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	806#	+10	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	385	+5	387	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	353	+4	354	287
F&C Inv Tst	1257#	+13	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	182½	+½	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1385	+7½	1480	1115
Fidelity Asian	618	-10	628	454
Fidelity European	433½	+3½	434	338½
Fidelity Special	443½	+5½	443½	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	780	+5	962	770
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1178	-20	1206	632
Graphite Ent	1564	+30	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	274	-1	278	190
Hansa Tst Plc	277	+3	281¾	192½
Henderson Far Est	244½#	-2	256	190½
Henderson High Inc	196	-½	198½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2540	+5	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	455	+3	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	119½	+2½	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	411½	+1½	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	936	+18	996	480
International Public	128¾	+1¾	130	107¾
Invesco Asia	438		447	300
Invesco Perp UK	389	+3	391	313½
JPM American	1128	+20	1178	869
JPM Asian	488#	-3½	496	331½
JPM Claverhouse	884#	+8	888	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	147#	+¼	147¼	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	631#	+2	631	444½
JPM Global Emerging	184	-2	186	118½
JPM Indian	945#	+10	1106	904
JPM Japanese	743#	+2	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	584	+7	609	480
JPM Smaller Co	343½	+1	344¾	253
JPM US Sml Co.	411	+2	508	338
Jupiter Euro.	916	-8	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	184		220	184
Law Debenture	1148	+14	1150	788
Lowland Invest Co	173	+½	174	114½
Majedie Inv.	280	+1	282	230
Manchester&Lon.	770	-6	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	348		382	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 34½			38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	269#	+1½	269½	202½
Merchants Tst	634	+6	634	474
Mid Wynd Int.	772	+10	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1524	+10	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	166	-1	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	105½#	+½	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	934	+7	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	343#	+4½	343	239
New India	718	+2	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	127½	-½	131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst	359		402	318
Northern 2 VCT	53½		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	7		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	373	+2	378	302
Pacific Horizon	890	-7	899	507
Pantheon Int.	379	+2	389	266
Pershing Square Hold	4616	+56	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	500	+3	504	255½
RCM Technology Trust	549	+3	554	307
RIT Capital Partners	2235	+40	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment.	304½	+2½	308	272½
Schroder Asia	699#	+3	702	461½
Schroder Inc.	355		359	255
Schroder Japan	322	-3	334	209
Schroder UK	208	+1	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	738#	-2	756	520
Scottish American	523	+6	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1267	+11½	1276½	815¼
Shires Inc.	325	+7	325	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	136		150	124
Standard Life Equity	427	+4	427	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	521	+4	531	426
Temple Bar.	389	+5½	389	258
Templeton Emrg.	261	-2	264	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	108½#	-½	111½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	665	+8	665	469
TR Euro.Growth	225½#	+½	229½	163
TR Prop. IT	333	+½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	314	-5	322	223
Wwide Healthcare	367	+3½	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3333	-18	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	357½	-15½	385	301
Abrdn	220½	+3	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	241½	+4¾	241½	125
Guinness Peat Group	86¾	+1¾	96	68¼
IG Group	1373	+21	1373	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	1804	-11	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	234	-1	237	121½
IP Group	61	+2	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	194	+6½	194	68
Liontrust Asset Man	238	+2	458	228½
London Stock Ex.	8234	+112	12095	8066
M&G	313	+3½	313	172¾
Man Group	264	+1¼	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	1203¾	+1¾	1285½	51
Rathbone Brothers	2235	+30	2235	1406
S & U	2330	-40	2420	1330
Schroders	455½	+4	467	289¼
St James's Place	1542½	+22½	1557	791
Tullett Prebon.	259½	+4½	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13½		14	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	327	+7¾	372¾	135½
BT Group	192½#	+1¼	222¾	141¾
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1643	+36	2182	1418
Marks & Spencer	370	+4	411¼	318½
Ocado	211¾	-6½	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	323	+2½	355¾	228¾
Tesco	431½	+6¼	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.	1915	+10	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern	1500	+30	1525	650
Carr's Milling	137#	+1	157	117
Cranswick.	5330	+70	5490	4625
Glanbia	1444	+69¼	1444	786¾
Greencore Group	297#	+7½	297	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6485		8733¼	6156½
Premier Foods	189¾	+1	214½	167
REA Holdings	135	-½	138	61½
Tate & Lyle	377½	+1	657½	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	191¾	+1	192¾	135¼
National Grid	1240½	+6	1255½	919¾
Pennon Group	546#	-½	565	387½
Severn Trent	2928		2965	2370
United Utilities	1248#	+1	1265½	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2056	+8	3448	1989
Goodwin	25800	+700	26100	6180
Melrose	621¼	-4¾	680	386
Mondi.	853¾	-¼	1326	819
Smiths Group	2532	+22	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3064	+40	4454	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS.	330	-½	424¾	218½
Auto Trader	531¾	-6¼	908½	531
B&M Europ Value Ret	178	+1½	344½	155¼
Caffyns.	415		500	380
Dixons Carphone	149½	+3½	150¼	85¼
Dunelm	936	+12	1232	858½
Frasers Group	710½	+15	770	546
Halfords Group	151½	+1½	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	43¾	-½	130	43
Howden Joinery	857	+20	914½	679½
Inchcape	821½	+5	823½	638
JD Sports	86¾	+5	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	340¼	+2¾	345	240¼
Next.	13445	+180	14580	9584
Pets At Home	209¾	+5¼	273¼	192¾
RM Group.	105		115	82
Topps Tiles	42		50	29
WH Smith	691#	+16	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	232	+2	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+½		1¾	+½
Smith & Nephew	1250½	+8½	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	390¼	+2	482¼	350
Bellway	2744	+28	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4158	+38	4324	3524
Bovis Homes.	676¾	+11½	701	510¾
Mcbride.	156¾	-3½	161½	107
Persimmon	1425½	+19½	1449½	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6182#	+90	6218	7½ 5946
Taylor Wimpey	108¼	+1½	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	746½	+1	772	460½
Hill & Smith	2285	+55	2360	1530
IMI	2826	+64	2826	1606
Morgan Crucible.	229½	+½	274	177½
Northgate	385	+3	395	273½
Rotork	358½	+4¾	358½	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7355	+90	8095	5445
Vesuvius	466¾	+7¼	479	313¾
Weir Group	3246	+20	3276	1984
Xaar.	108	-2	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	269½	-4½	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	75	-1	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	216	-1	275	201
Clarkson	4150	-40	4505	2995
FirstGroup	188½	+2¼	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	444	-4	448	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop.	17170	+120	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	141¼	+2½	230	132
Life Insurance				
Aviva.	651½	+15½	692½	493
Chesnara.	312	+6½	314	212¾
Legal & General.	267½	+2½	268¼	215¼
Phoenix Group	748	+8½	750	499¼
Prudential.	1206	+1½	1211	655
Media				
4imprint Group	4115	+35	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	494	-3	666	468
Future.	541½#		1029	492½
Informa	885	+5	993½	640¼
ITV	83½	+2¼	87¾	66¼
Pearson	969½	+12¼	1379	929¾
Reach	67½	+3½	88¼	53
STV Group	114½	-½	202	103
Wilmington Group.	303	+5	387	289
WPP Group	302½	+¾	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3450	+42	3500	2003¾
Anglo Pacific.	139¼	-6	152½	50
Antofagasta.	3640	-8	3786	1383
BHP Billiton	2547	+12	2598	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4110	-112	4542	1536
Fresnillo.	3668	-34	4448	696
Gem Diamonds.	3		12	2¾
Glencore	501	+1¾	508	230
Hochschild Mining.	655½	-20½	750½	175½
Kenmare Res.	251½	+6	436	227
Petra Diamonds	15½	+½	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6802	+64	6849	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	109¼#	+1¾	109¼	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1285	+35	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2080	-10	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	1168	+35	1177	769
Hiscox.	1492	+10	1528	1035
Lancashire	627	+11	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP.	461¾	-2	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	255½	-3½	319½	183
Enquest.	12¾	+¼	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	182		224½	148¾
Harbour Energy.	227	-5½	243¼	151¼
Shell	2779½	-14½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21¾		25	18
Tullow Oil	7	-1	21½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting.	444	+2	453	246½
John Wood Group	26		72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1099		1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	75¼	+2¼	88¼	66
Unilever.	4992	+51½	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	14040	+440	14346	9667
Genus.	2965	-195	3175	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	1925	+48½	1927½	1264
Haleon	382¾	+3¾	415¼	326½
Hikma.	1551	+22	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold				
Oxford Biomedica	830	-1	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	190	-3	237	190
Cardiff Property	2700		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	62½	-¼	75	53½
Foxtons	52½	-1	67¾	50¾
Harworth Group	163	-1	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	8900	-100	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		315	280
Rightmove	495¼	+1	823¾	494½
Savills	1074	-4	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	860		900	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1034	+4	1180	848
British Land	414½	-½	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	144¾	+1¼	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1905	-17	2096	1608
Grainger	193½#	-½	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	367	-7	377	262
Hammerson	355¾	+1¼	359½	220½
Helical Bar	191	-2½	240	174
Land Securities	649½	-1	656½	499½
London & Stamford Prop	200¼	+¼	204½	170½
Primary Health.	103¾#	+¼	106	87½
SEGRO	760¼	+1½	766¼	599
Town Centre	128	+6	149	117
Unite Group	575½	+9½	879½	510
Value & Income	204	+2¼	215	173
Workspace Group	420½#	+1	473½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter.	3376	+48	3378	2122
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	268	-2	344	255
Moneysupermarket	186	-½	221½	180½
Pendragon.	476½	+4½	558	296
RELX	2585	+6	4135	2579
Sage Group	965½#	+8¼	1348	955
Triad Group	291		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	4820#	+133	5594	3659
Capita Group	395½	+19	407½	175
DCC.	4650	+14	5600	4350
Diploma	5375	+55	5685	3624
Essentra.	100¼	-¾	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	2740#	-18	4088	2695
Ferguson.	18560#	+120	19470	11670
Hays	47¼	-¼	88¼	45
Intertek Group	4500	+36	5385	4064
Johnson Service	143½	+3	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	72		120½	62¾
Mears Group.	368	+½	417½	311½
Michael Page	205¼	-¼	341¼	193
Mitie Group.	171½#	+3¾	171½	112
Norish.	24		25	14
Paypoint	555	+22	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	455¼	+4½	480¾	309½
Robert Walters.	122½	-2½	296	116
RS Group.	675	+5	675	487¼
Serco Group	301	+1	305¼	152
SIG.	9¾		18	8½
Smiths News.	68¾#	+½	77½	47½
Speedy Hire.	25½		32¼	18
SThree	192¼	-1¾	278	137½
Travis Perkins	640½	+15	714	494
Trifast	78	+2¾	87½	59
Vitec Group	12	-½	125	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	15¼		19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4432#	+56	4460	2965
Imperial Brands	3082	+16	3312	2667
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	25½	+½	73¾	21
Carnival	2333	+175	2406	1134
Celtic.	195	-5	210	142½
Compass Group	2248#	+61	2843	2172
Domino's Pizza.	183½	+1¼	302	167¼
EasyJet.	491	+13¼	587¾	427½
Entain.	601¼	-3¾	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	12125	+160	23630	11760
Fuller Smith & Turner	686	+12	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10277¼	+410	10277¼	5434¼
Intl Consolidated Airlines	433¼	+15	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts.	562½	+5	575	380
Marston's	60½		69	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	267½	+4	291½	208½
National Express	23¾	+½	73½	21
Rank Group	88½	+½	160½	78
Saga	550	+30	550	117½
Wetherspoon (JD)	676½	+6	804	541
Whitbread	2747	+23	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	245	+1	395	230¼
Arbuthnot Banking	882½	+10	1100	837½
Boohoo	24¼	-¾	29	10½
Camellia	4945	+65	6050	4090
Churchill China	445	+50	710	324
CML Microsystems.	249	-5	335	210
Colefax Group	1150		1165	750
CPP Group	77	+½	162	60
Cropper (James)	380	-8	400	132½
Falkland Islands.	245#		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	887	+16	998	671½
Filtronic	183	-6	196	82½
James Halstead	140½	+3	172½	133
Mothercare	1¾		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	355	-15	565	270
Naked Wine.	72¾	+1¾	93½	43
Nichols.	1035	+20	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion.	97½	-1½	189	94
Regal Petroleum	16½		23½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	73	+2½	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	46	-1½	73	45¼
Titon Holdings	95		97½	69
Volex.	444	+2½	470	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	852	+19	992	714

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We all demand the Brexit that we voted for in 2016

THE reality of how poorly the UK has exploited six years of Brexit is shown in the latest trade figures ("Now you must give Britain a proper Brexit", January 31).

The EU remains our largest trading partner with £366billion (41%) – almost double that of the US and is made possible by remaining closely aligned with its laws and conventions.

Going it alone on taxation, business regulations, migration and human rights would severely damage this position.

Embracing Brexit and the free market would be possible only by a sea-change in our trading relations with the US – becoming ever more aligned with the EU will only damage it further.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

Starmer and his cronies thwart us at every turn

KEIR Starmer was a staunch Remainer who toyed with the idea of stopping Brexit, ignoring the referendum result and the will of the people. He now wants to dilute the terms negotiated, but at what cost? The cost of living is expensive throughout the EU and other factors not related to Brexit have contributed to the situation.

The referendum and its implementation was the will of the people over the issue of sovereignty, control of borders and freedom of trade.

Those issues are still important and a dilution of these principles after a vast Brexit fee, and without public consent, is a betrayal.

Diane Silva,
Bournemouth, Dorset

Britain can't trust Trump's US so cosy up to Europe

IT WAS with considerable surprise that I saw that your paper trumpeted the idea of Brexit. Life has moved on to a point where more serious issues now apply. Donald Trump has made it very clear that the "special relationship" with the US no longer applies and we cannot rely on the States any longer to help defend us.

The only way forward is to belong to a group that, pulling together, stands a chance of survival, and that is Europe.

Richard Goddard,
Rowlands Castle, Hants

PM a tool in China's hands after latest doomed junket

"NEVER Here-Keir" has hailed his visit to China as a success. Sanctions have been lifted on UK politicians but they have said they would rather remain sanctioned than act as a bargaining chip ("China thaw hope as sanctions against six UK politicians lifted", January 31). What about trade? Well AstraZeneca has announced a $15billion investment creating thousands of jobs... in China! The Chinese must be delighted that the son of a toolmaker is such a wonderful tool in their hands.

Dr Peter Outen,
Brentwood, Essex

LETTER OF THE DAY

BRUSSELS BOUND? Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer

This muppet will drag us back into EU

ONCE again the Daily Express is at the forefront highlighting Britain's Brexit betrayal. It is a true crusader paper and has the British people at heart ("PM wants to 'rewind' freedom Brexit gave us", February 2).

This country under Labour is going against the democratic vote of the people.

We voted because we wanted our country back under home rule, under our own laws and answering to nobody.

Keir Starmer and his crew have tried to block it at all stages, they didn't want it in the beginning and are trying their damnedest to undo everything.

Thank you, Daily Express. Keep on with the good work.

Shirley Whitaker,
Swindon, Wilts

Tories a busted flush in huge Gorton by-election

THE Gorton and Denton by-election is going to be hard-fought, but Duncan Barkes has it wrong with the Conservative vote in the constituency largely irrelevant ("Kemi must yield to Reform if Right is to win by-election", February 2).

The major competitor to Reform UK are the Greens who have stolen a march on them with a born-and-bred local tradesperson and councillor as candidate, up against an academic turned political TV pundit parachuted in from London.

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

Stop grandstanding, Keir and get house in order

KEIR Starmer parades himself on the world stage pretending to be somebody but achieving very little. He gloats about the trade he has agreed with the likes of India and now China. Yet he still wants to cosy up to the unelected EU, get nothing other than rules and regulations which we taxpayers will have to pay for and then give up all the deals he thinks he's achieved.

Stop globetrotting, grow a backbone and stand up to the EU – get our fishing rights back, stop undermining our farmers and stop kowtowing to bureaucrats that never have audited accounts.

You're the PM, act like it.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Cheshire

Waspi women left out in cold by heartless leaders

AFTER reading this, I ask myself what has changed for women ("'Cruel' Waspi decision 'amounts to declaration of war on OAPs'", January 30)?

There are many thousands of women, now in their 80s and 90s, who paid the "married woman's stamp" who were treated the same.

These women who paid this stamp, many part-time workers, not only lacked information but were also excluded from Home Responsibilities credits.

The message that the Waspi women give out is that women are still poorly treated by the powers that be. Good luck, ladies. You will need it.

Margaret Watts,
Weymouth, Dorset

Hidden extra benefits of working those extra years

WHILE I do have sympathy for the Waspi women and believe that the Government has treated them abysmally by changing direction more than once, there is another side to the coin.

These ladies have had the benefit of the extra years' salary, albeit that may not have been what they wanted, but they also now receive an enhanced state pension to those of us born before 1950.

Whenever the rate of state pension is reported it is always the higher figure which is quoted and not the one so many of us receive.

These facts should be taken into account if the government does make yet another U-turn.

Ruth Sharp,
Hykeham, Lincs

Helen, please put some clothes on and cover up

I COULDN'T agree more with Carole Malone regarding Helen Flanagan ("Take a leaf out of my book, Helen ...and cover up", January 31).

She seems to be forever flaunting herself half-naked and then she condemns Coronation Street for exploiting her at an early age – talk about biting the hand that feeds you. She needs to sort herself out as she doesn't come across as so squeaky-clean.

Annette Hale,
Aldridge, W Mids

HANG EVIL MURDERER TO TEACH ILLEGAL MIGRANTS A LESSON

LIKE many law-abiding British citizens, we are sickened by the killing of Rhiannon Whyte, who worked at the hotel where her Sudanese murderer Deng Chol Majek was staying ("29 years' jail for migrant hotel dancing murderer", January 31).

We must stop this tide of mainly young men landing illegally on our shores. Many come from countries where women are treated with total disrespect.

Why should British taxpayers pay to keep him? Murderers should be hanged and then maybe that will act as a deterrent.

Bob Cross,
Manchester

TODAY: Tuesday February 3, 2026

ON THIS DAY

47 years ago (1979)
We reported that the "tormented" punk star Sid Vicious, 21, had died of a heroin overdose at his girlfriend's flat in New York.

The bass player, whose real name was John Simon Ritchie, was found by his mother Anne Beverley less than 24 hours after being released on police bail on a charge of murdering his former girlfriend Nancy Spungen the previous October.

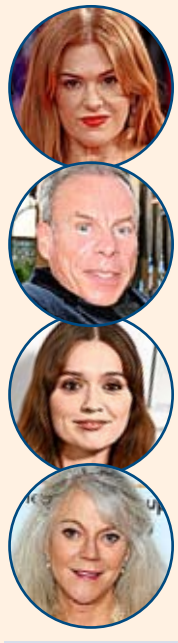
66 years ago (1960)
Addressing South African MPs in Cape Town, British PM Harold Macmillan said a "wind of change" was blowing through the continent as more African countries demanded independence.

The speech signalled an acceptance by the British that the days of empire were over.

28 years ago (1998)
Twenty people were killed when a low-flying Nato jet severed a cable car line at an Italian ski resort in the Dolomites mountain range.

The plane was flown by US Captain Richard Ashby who was dismissed and received a six-month prison sentence for attempting to hide a video shot by his navigator during the flight.

BIRTHDAYS



Wedding Crashers star **Isla Fisher** is 50. Her career began on Home And Away. Star Wars star **Warwick Davis** is 56. He's a writer, presenter and director. Sex Education's **Aimee Lou Wood** is 32. She played Aimee Gibbs in the hit series. Actress **Blythe Danner** is 83. She is Gwyneth Paltrow's mother.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

I'm reading a horror story in Braille. Something bad is going to happen, I can feel it.

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Day 6	**Honningsvåg, Norway** *Also stopping at: Øksfjord · Hammerfest · Havøysund · Kjøllefjord · Mehamn · Berlevåg*
Day 7	**Kirkenes, Norway** *Also stopping at: Båtsfjord · Vardø · Vadsø · Vardø · Båtsfjord · Berlevåg*
Day 8	**Hammerfest, Norway** *Also stopping at: Mehamn · Kjøllefjord · Honningsvåg · Havøysund · Øksfjord · Skjervøy*
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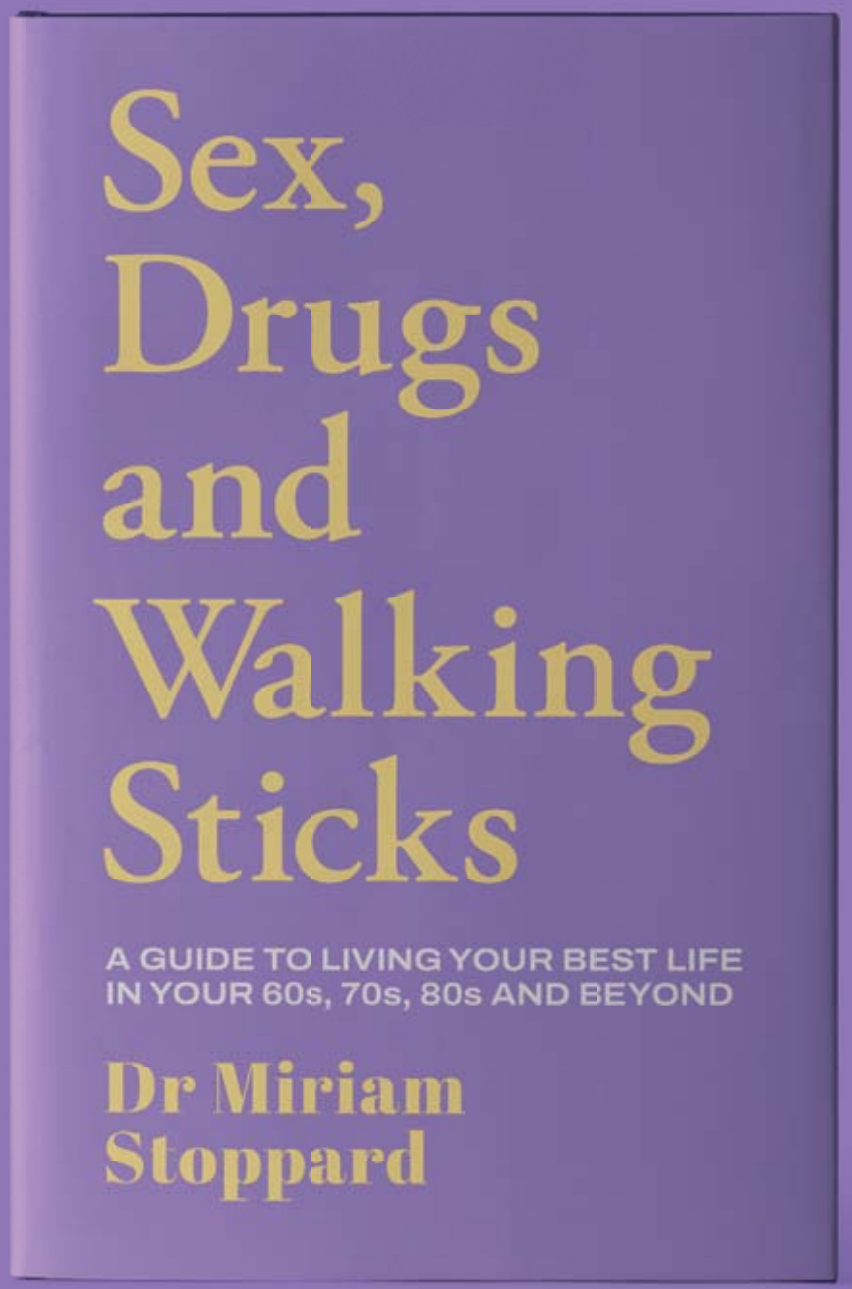
Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard



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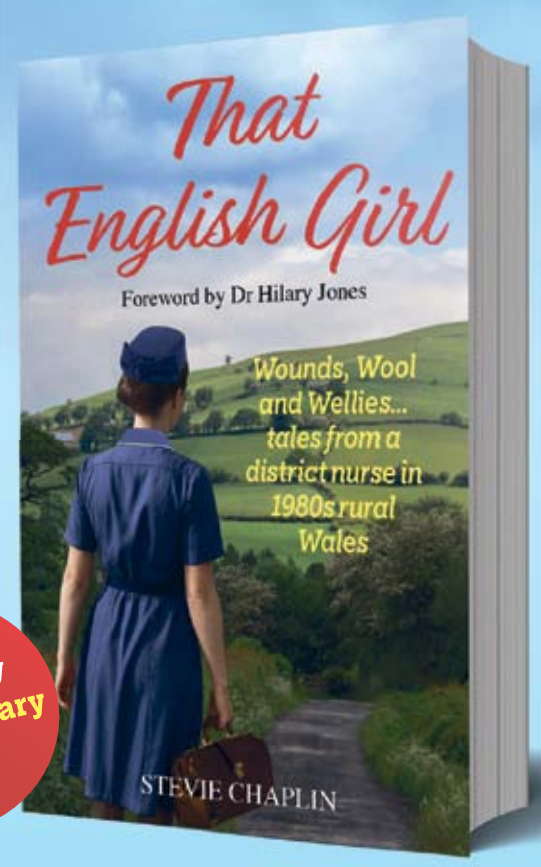
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Racing

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Pal can be punters' friend at Taunton

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

PALAWAN DU MAZET (4.15, Nap) is on the charge for a first career victory in the 24 March Behind The Scenes Raceday Novices' Handicap Chase at Taunton.

Papal Bull's son took the race last year but was then disqualified by the BHA after testing positive for a banned substance.

Well-weighted off 2lb lower, my selection had a run at the track in December when conditions would have been lively enough for him.

This is a good opportunity as key rivals Jaitroplaclasse (weight), Falco Des Pins (stable form) and Nedzor (hasn't found ideal trip) have a bit to prove.

Useful prospect KINGS CHAMPION (1.40, nb) can defy a penalty in the Racing To School Celebrates 25 Years Novices' Hurdle in the hands of Sean Bowen, above, who is fancied to bookend the card on DISH OF THE DAY (4.45, trb).

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GOLD RUN: Fact To File and Mark Walsh win the Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown

POINT OF FACT

Mullins star lays down marker for Cheltenham

By **Melissa Jones**

MAN of the moment Mark Walsh steered Fact To File to a brilliant triumph in the rescheduled Paddy Power Irish Gold Cup at the Dublin Racing Festival yesterday.

The jockey had bagged three Grade Ones at the meeting and made it four for himself, owner JP McManus and trainer Willie Mullins by leading home a 1-2-3 for the stable.

A 9-2 chance, Fact To File jumped well and stayed on strongly to beat Gaelic Warrior (4-1), ridden by the trainer's son Patrick, by five lengths.

Dual Cheltenham Gold Cup champion Galopin Des Champs, bidding to win the race for a record fourth time, rounded out the podium places for Closutton.

"It was a hell of a performance from horse and jockey," said Mullins, right, after Fact To File added to Walsh's wins in the juvenile hurdle on Narciso Has, in the Dublin Chase on Majborough and in the 2m5½f novice chase with Kaid D'Authie.

"It was far and above what Fact To File had done before. I was wondering whether he would stay the trip as they went a fair lick from the start and he got every inch of it."

Fact To File has the 2024 Brown Advisory Novices' Chase over 3m½f and 2025 Ryanair Chase (2m4½f) on his Cheltenham Festival CV already.

He is now the 4-5 favourite to retain his title with Coral and 5-2 in their non-runner, money back market for the Gold Cup – but he would need to be added into the race at a cost of £25,000.

"When Mark got off he said the horse pricked his ears when he hit the front, which showed he had more in the tank," Mullins added.

Walsh fancies his chances of going out on a high in the Festival feature on March 13, with Harry Cobden set to take over as retained rider for McManus from May.

"He has no problem staying," said Walsh, who won the Gold Cup at Cheltenham last year on Inothewayurthinkin – a faller in yesterday's contest which was postponed from Saturday due to wet weather.

"I gave my lad a little squeeze and there was plenty left."

KEMPTON: Good to soft-soft in places

12.52–LADY MAGIC (N Fox, 22-1) 1; Jem's Lilly (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Sheezer Dancer (6-1) 3; Our Peggy (40-1) 4. 16 ran. 1¼l, 2l, 1l. (T Symonds; 9-4 fav Onefournine). Tote: £25.20; pl £5.10, £1.50, £2.30. exacta: £100.50. trifecta: £767.90. CSF: £82.07. Non-runner: Sevarana.

1.27–AVIATION (T Cannon, 5-1) 1; Saint Anapolino (6-1) 2; Moonshine Man (17-2) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 3¾l, ½l. (L Wadham; 5-2 fav Youdecide). Tote: £6.10; pl £1.60, £2.10, £2.60. exacta: £31.60. tricast: £253.46. trifecta: £187.70. CSF: £36.39.

2.02–RECKLESS SPENDING (J Bowen, 11-4) 1; Padre Arthur (22-1) 2; Neon Dream (4-1) 3. 15 ran. 15l, 10l. (N Henderson; 9-4 fav Step Ahead). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.50, £4.80, £2.10. exacta: £62.50. trifecta: £420.50. CSF: £60.06. Non-runners: Fury Lad, Peter's Last Deal.

2.35–GOOLOOGONG (T Cannon, 50-1) 1; Sage Green (14-1) 2; Frontier Prince (3-1 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 12l, ½l. (G Baker). Tote: £76.50; pl £11.80, £3.20, £1.50. exacta: £1328.50. tricast: £2751.97. trifecta: £4820.70. CSF: £608.24. Non-runner: Tradecraft.

3.07–ISSAM (G Sheehan, 11-4 fav) 1; Madara (16-5 jt 2nd fav) 2; Rightsotom (16-5 jt 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 6½l, nk. (T Symonds). Tote: £3.75; pl £2.00, £2.50. exacta: £13.50. trifecta: £49.90. CSF: £12.44.

3.42–GUCHEN (Aamilah Aswat, 9-1) 1; Grand Conqueror (6-4 fav) 2; Snapdance (13-2) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¼l, 13l. (K Bailey & M Nicholls). Tote: £13.20; pl £3.20, £1.30, £2.00. exacta: £47.80. tricast: £101.62. trifecta: £293.20. CSF: £24.17. Non-runner: Sheezer Diva.

4.17–LOVER DESBOIS (Mr F Maguire, 11-4 jt fav) 1; Inishbofin (11-2) 2; Eternity Rose (9-1) 3. 14 ran. 3¾l, 8½l. (Harry Derham; 11-4 jtfav Pitch And Toss). Tote: £3.90; pl £1.70, £2.50, £3.50. exacta: £24.80. trifecta: £182.60. CSF: £18.96. Non-runner: Intrastellar.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £6,402.65 carried over.

Placepot: £134.00

(Race 1) 9, 7, 15; (2) 5, 1, 9; (3) 15, 12, 11; (4) 6, 8, 3; (5) 3, 1; (6) 6, 5, 11;

Quadpot: £22.60

SOUTHWELL: Good to soft-soft in places

1.02–DUHALLOW TOMMY (K Brogan, 5-2 fav) 1; Roger Rarebit (11-4 2nd fav) 2; Whatsyourproblem (9-2) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 8l, 2¼l. (T Lawes). Tote: £3.70; pl £2.10, £1.50. exacta: £13.70. trifecta: £42.70. CSF: £10.49.

1.37–DAYTIME DREAMING (J Andrews, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Mr Grey Sky (18-1) 2; Ostend (5-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 11l, 6½l. (T Ellis; 9-4 fav Benmore). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.80, £5.40. exacta: £44.50. trifecta: £274.40. CSF: £39.20.

2.12–WILSTAR (K Brogan, 11-10 fav) 1; Tread Carefully (6-4 2nd fav) 2; Myrighthandman (5-1) 3. 10 ran. 2l, 11l. (O Murphy). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £1.10, £2.10. exacta: £3.80. trifecta: £9.50. CSF: £3.38.

2.45–DESERTMORE NEWS (J Andrews, 5-1) 1; Fouroneohfever (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Stung By Tariffs (10-1) 3. 10 ran. 13l, 6½l. (T Ellis; 9-4 fav Moyganny Phil). Tote: £7.00; pl £2.40, £1.50, £2.10. exacta: £22.30. trifecta: £171.60. CSF: £19.16.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

3.17–PARISH STAR (J Thompson, 8-11 fav) 1; Kellebelle (100-1) 2; Time Was (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 6½l, 2l. (A Nicol). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.10, £15.50, £2.40. exacta: £89.30. tricast: £257.68. trifecta: £220.70. CSF: £99.51. Non-runner: Raincloud.

3.52–BITSNBUCKLES (L Saunders, 7-2 fav) 1; Thankyourluckystar (12-1) 2; Firm But Fair (9-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 6½l, 4l. (O Murphy). Tote: £4.60; pl £1.60, £3.40, £1.50. exacta: £53.00. tricast: £196.88. trifecta: £268.90. CSF: £45.55.

4.27–LA HIGUERA (K Brogan, 5-2 fav) 1; Check The Score (6-1) 2; Bobalot (9-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 15l, 1½l. (T Lawes). Tote: £3.50; pl £2.60, £2.10. exacta: £12.90. trifecta: £92.50. CSF: £18.23.

Placepot: £39.90

(Race 1) 6, 4; (2) 3, 4; (3) 10, 9, 7; (4) 1, 2, 9; (5) 10, 4, 7; (6) 8, 4, 5;

Quadpot: £6.40

WOLVERHAMPTON: Standard

5.00–TAKE THE BOAT (Harry Brown, 3-1 2nd fav) 1; Shahbaz (11-8 fav) 2; The Corporate Guy (8-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 1l, nk. (G Nicholls). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.40, £1.70, £4.30. exacta: £13.40. tricast: £31.88. trifecta: £60.70. CSF: £7.76.

5.30–HORACE WALLACE (C Hardie, 3-1 2nd fav) 1; Leonetto (1-5 fav) 2; Elashgar (28-1) 3. 5 ran. 2¾l, 5l. (R Fahey). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.20, £1.10. exacta: £7.80. trifecta: £13.90. CSF: £4.28.

6.00–MY GENGHIS (M Ghiani, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Kento (12-1) 2; Some Nightmare (7-2 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. (A Carroll). Tote: £5.30; pl £1.90, £3.80, £1.60. exacta: £67.40. tricast: £186.82. trifecta: £324.70. CSF: £52.13.

6.30–MR NUGGET (R Scott, 11-2 jt 2nd fav) 1; Beaming Light (13-2) 2; Mao Shang Wong (14-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. nk, 1½l. (D M Simcock; 9-4 fav Latin). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.50, £2.80, £4.60. exacta: £47.60. tricast: £500.82. trifecta: £1625.70. CSF: £43.27. Non-runners: Francesi, Implied Volatility.

7.00–LAW SUPREME (R Kavanagh, 11-2) 1; The Dark Baron (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Stipulation (9-4 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, ½l. (I Williams). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.80, £1.60, £1.10. exacta: £31.60. tricast: £48.05. trifecta: £117.80. CSF: £22.32. Non-runner: Corundum.

7.30–FRANCESCO BARACCA (J Nicholls, 10-11 fav) 1; Sneaky Blinder (18-1) 2; Fleurman (66-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. (E J-Houghton). Tote: £1.91; pl £1.10, £3.20, £13.00. exacta: £17.40. tricast: £688.44. trifecta: £251.40. CSF: £21.21.

8.00–ELECTROCUTION (J Haynes, 11-2) 1; Crimson Rambler (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Athenian Spirit (15-8 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, 1¼l. (C Banham). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.90, £1.60, £1.10. exacta: £27.80. tricast: £42.12. trifecta: £80.40. CSF: £22.36. Non-runners: Ezera, Fickle Mcselfish, She's Crafty.

Placepot: £13.30

(Race 1) 9, 2, 7; (2) 3, 4; (3) 8, 9, 2; (4) 6, 10, 4; (5) 7, 9, 1; (6) 2, 9, 1;

Quadpot: £10.20

LEOPARDSTOWN: Hurdle: heavy; chase: soft

1.15–DOCTOR STEINBERG (P Townend, 7-4 fav) 1; Kazansky (4-1 jt 2nd fav) 2; Love Me Tender (4-1 jt 2nd fav) 3. 8 ran. 8l, 6l. (W P Mullins). Tote: €2.75; pl €1.40, €1.50, €1.50. exacta: €6.60. tricast: €23.85. trifecta: €28.60. CSF: €9.07. Non-runner: Jalon D'oudairies.

1.50–NARCISO HAS (M P Walsh, evens fav) 1; Selma De Vary (17-2) 2; Mange Tout (15-8 2nd fav) 3. 7 ran. 4½l, 1½l. (W P Mullins). Tote: €2.00; pl €1.20, €2.70. exacta: €9.00. trifecta: €14.40. CSF: €10.33.

2.25–SAINT LE FORT (Niall Moore, 10-1) 1; Savante (18-1) 2; He Can't Dance (7-1) 3; Barra Rua (12-1) 4. H'cap 21 ran. hd, 15l, 1¼l. (P Fenton; 7-2 fav County Final). Tote: €11.10; pl €2.00, €4.90, €2.40, €3.00. exacta: €279.10. tricast: €1399.92. trifecta: €2854.50. CSF: €187.37. Non-runners: Staffordshire Knot, Grann's Boy, I Love My Baie.

2.55–ROMEO COOLIO (J W Kennedy, 4-9 fav) 1; Kargese (2-1 2nd fav) 2; Downmexicoway (22-1) 3. 3 ran. nk, 23l. (G Elliott). Tote: €1.45; exacta: €1.20. trifecta: €1.80. CSF: €1.73.

3.30–FACT TO FILE (M P Walsh, 9-2) 1; Gaelic Warrior (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Galopin Des Champs (15-8 fav) 3. 12 ran. 5l, 8½l. (W P Mullins). Tote: €5.50; pl €1.80, €1.80, €1.30. exacta: €19.90. tricast: €46.09. trifecta: €56.70. CSF: €23.26. Non-runner: Stellar Story.

4.05–JACOB'S LADDER (J W Kennedy, 2-1 fav) 1; Golden Joy (25-1) 2; Addragoole (7-1) 3. H'cap 14 ran. 5l, 2¼l. (G Elliott). Tote: €3.00; pl €1.60, €6.90, €2.30. exacta: €61.40. tricast: €327.64. trifecta: €429.90. CSF: €61.38.

4.40–BROADWAY TED (Mr B O'Neill, 18-1) 1; With Nolimit (28-1) 2; Charismatic Kid (7-4 fav) 3. 7 ran. shd, 2½l. (G Elliott). Tote: €22.70; pl €7.40, €7.00. exacta: €116.90. trifecta: €496.00. CSF: €367.55.

Placepot: €55.60

(Race 1) 1, 4, 5; (2) 4, 7; (3) 22, 23, 16, 18; (4) 2; (5) 3, 5, 6; (6) 2, 8, 3;

WOLVERHAMPTON SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

5.30 How's The Guvnor
6.00 Betsen
6.30 Lovethiswayagain
7.00 Captain Robert
7.30 Eupator
8.00 Grey Horizon
8.30 Popty Ping

5.30 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS HANDICAP
£4,711 (Class 6) 7f 36yds (9 declared)

1 (7) 741L-L1 **HARBOUR VISION (8) (C&D)** S Dixon 11 9-13(4ex) ..... K O'Neill 69
2 (6) 533-211 ● **HOW'S THE GUVNOR (7) (C&D) (S)** J Candlish 5 9-11(5ex) .. G Wood 71
3 (8) 92100L- **TEN CLUB (38) (D)** A Wintle 5 9-8 ..... F Marsh 70
4 (1) 211223 **SECRET ROAD (10) (C,D)** James Owen 8 9-7 ..... L Morris 68
5 (3) 36236-4 **BOMB SQUAD (12) (C,D)** J Mackie 8 9-6 ..... H Doyle ★72
6 (2) 5L736-6 **ROMANOVICH (18) (C,D)** J G O'Shea 7 9-6 ..... G Mangan 67
7 (4) 84315L- **HAVANA CLUB (45) (C&D)** A Wintle 4 9-5 ..... D J Murphy(7) 69
8 (9) 46604-6 **CLOCH NUA (12) (C,D)** T Culhane & S Barclay 7 9-5 ..... S Donohoe 69
9 (5) 8742-66 **ROMAN EMPEROR (10)** J Ryan 5 9-3 ..... Lillie Dingle(7) 70

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 6, 9 VISOR: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 How's The Guvnor, 11-4 Harbour Vision, 4 Secret Road, 8 Bomb Squad, 14 Cloch Nua, Roman Emperor, 16 Havana Club, 25 Romanovich, 33 Ten Club.
2025: Bint Havana Gold 4-9-9, Finley Marsh 9-2 (R Hughes), drawn (4), 8 ran.

6.00 MIDNITE, BUILDING THE FUTURE OF BETTING HCAP
£4,972 (4) 6f 20yds (7)

1 (3) 70U03-5 **COACHELLO (14) (C&D)** M Loughnane 8 9-11 ..... F Marsh 92
2 (4) 82071-4 ● **BETSEN (14) (D)** A Carroll 5 9-10 ..... Rossa Ryan 91
3 (7) 651524- **MANY A STAR (35) (C&D,F)** J Osborne 9 9-8 ..... S Osborne 92
4 (5) 3/8146-5 **DYRHOLAEY (17) (C&D)** A Watson 5 9-8 ..... H Doyle 93
5 (1) 886L90- **CAJETAN (236) (D)** R Carr 5 9-6 ..... P Mulrennan ★95
6 (6) 510346- **POWDERING (106) (C,D)** M Herrington 6 9-5 ..... J Mitchell 93
7 (2) 141L-26 **NO RETURN (20) (D,F)** C Johnston 4 9-3 ..... O Stammers 94

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Betsen, 3 Coachello, Many A Star, 8 No Return, 10 Dyrholaey, 14 Cajetan, Powdering.
2025: Lady Dreamer 5-9-9, Sean Levey 85-40 Fav (T Ward), drawn (5), 8 ran.

6.30 MIDNITE RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE)
£5,400 (4) 6f 20yds (7)

1 (3) LL **LUCKY SEVENS (7)** James Owen 3 9-1 ..... P Cosgrave 44
2 (1) 522- **HARLEQUIN BAY (46)** R Fahey 3 8-13 ..... Shane Gray 87
3 (5) 3-2 **SPARKSMITH (26)** J Ferguson 3 8-13 ..... J Peate 83
4 (4) L-L **ANALEESA (10)** C Cox 3 8-10 ..... R Hornby 61
5 (7) 3246-2 ● **LOVETHISWAYAGAIN (10) (F)** Ollie Sangster 3 8-10 ..... N Currie ★91
6 (6) L **NAUTICAL SKY (26)** J Ferguson 3 8-10 ..... R Scott 67
7 (2) 9 **FOLLOW MY HEART (13)** B Millman 3 8-8 ..... Jack Doughty 60

CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Harlequin Bay, 7-4 Sparksmith, 5-2 Lovethiswayagain, 33 Nautical Sky, Analeesa, 50 Lucky Sevens, Follow My Heart.
2025: Enola Holmes 3-8-10, Dylan Hogan 12-1 (Jack Jones), drawn (1), 10 ran.

7.00 JOIN THE MIDNITE MOVEMENT HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 1m 5f 219yds (10)

1 (5) 013/47-L **PARRAMOUNT (19) (C&D)** C Longsdon 10 10-0 ..... R Hornby 66
2 (6) 245348- **ONE COOL DREAMER (48)** A King 5 9-13 ..... Rossa Ryan 75
3 (8) 228-313 **PRINCE QUATTRO (7) (D,F) (S)** James Owen 7 9-13 ..... Mason Paetel(5) 73
4 (9) 42647-3 **WORD OF MOUTH (11)** J Ferguson 4 9-9 ..... D Muscutt 71
5 (7) L7769-3 **SKYCUTTER (17)** T Culhane & S Barclay 8 9-9 ..... S Donohoe ★76
6 (10) 00644-4 **FURTHER MEASURE (12) (C&D)** M Murphy 9 9-7 ..... S D Bowen 72
7 (1) 547/4L-5 **HILL STATION (28) (C)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 7 9-6 ..... H Doyle 70
8 (3) 370221- ● **CAPTAIN ROBERT (54) (D)** J Fanshawe 4 9-4 ..... G Wood 70
9 (2) 50019-4 **MAYWEDANCE (12)** N & W Twiston-Davies 4 9-2 ..... L Morris 69
10 (4) 155-342 **BILLY BATHGATE (7) (C,D) (T)** Ewan Whillans 10 9-1 ..... R Scott 73

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 6 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Captain Robert, 4 Billy Bathgate, 5 Prince Quattro, 8 Maywedance, 10 Word Of Mouth, Skycutter, 12 One Cool Dreamer, Further Measure, 14 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

7.30 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 1m 1f 104yds (7)

1 (7) 63-6211 ● **EUPATOR (8) (C&D,F)** R Hannon 4 9-10(5ex) ..... S M Levey ★91
2 (6) L5826-4 **SHIHOKU (13) (D)** James Owen 5 9-9 ..... C Fallon 89
3 (4) 51112-4 **TOWERLANDS (13)** A Carroll 4 9-8 ..... Jack Doughty 89
4 (5) 0201-42 **COMMANDER OF LIFE (11) (C&D)** Jessica Macey 5 9-8 ..... L Edmunds 88
5 (2) 422-134 **CHARLIE'S CHOICE (21) (C&D)** D M Simcock 6 9-5 ..... Taryn Langley(5) 89
6 (1) 4453-3L **URBAN ROAD (12) (C&D)** A Brown 7 9-4 ..... S B Kirrane 89
7 (3) LL114-L **SPIRIT LEAD ME (13) (C)** R Hughes 4 9-4 ..... F Marsh 90

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Eupator, 7-2 Commander Of Life, 9-2 Charlie's Choice, 6 Towerlands, 8 Shihoku, 14 Urban Road, 20 Spirit Lead Me.
2025: No corresponding race.

8.00 BETMGM SUPPORTS SAFER GAMBLING HCAP 3YO
£3,716 (5) 5f 21yds (8)

1 (1) 123-111 ● **GREY HORIZON (8) (C)** S Dixon 9-13(6ex) ..... K O'Neill 69
2 (3) 343517- **ROTOKURA BELLE (122) (D)** I Furtado 9-9 ..... Elle-May Croot(5) 73
3 (5) 40133-3 **FLASH RASCAL (28)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-9 ..... P Mulrennan 74
4 (9) 527-4 **WHIZZY DIZZY (8)** C Cox 9-8 ..... J Nicholls(5) 70
5 (2) 8446-7 **LOVE ALIVE (21)** Martin Dunne 9-7 ..... A Rawlinson 73
6 (8) 05L23- **WISETANCK (47)** R Hughes 9-7 ..... Doubtful
7 (4) L4L52-6 **MORETONS (8)** G Scott 9-6 ..... D Keenan 73
8 (7) 5282-31 **FAR TOO FIZZY (13)** D Loughnane 9-6 ..... Rossa Ryan ★77
9 (6) 25721L- **MWAKI (70) (C&D)** R Spencer 9-2 ..... G Wood 72

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: No. 1 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 2 Far Too Fizzy, 11-4 Grey Horizon, 11-2 Moretons, 7 Whizzy Dizzy, 10 Flash Rascal, 12 Mwaki, Rotokura Belle, 20 Love Alive.
2025: No corresponding race.

8.30 BETMGM HANDICAP3YO
£3,140 (6) 1m 142yds (12)

1 (1) 32312-4 ● **POPTY PING (17)** D O'Meara 9-9 ..... C J Whiteley(7) 64
2 (11) 83-8 **SILVER STATE (14) (F)** J Channon 9-9 ..... Rose Dawes(5) 65
3 (6) 2211-75 **THANH NAM (13) (C&D)** James Owen 9-7 ..... L Morris 61
4 (10) 0803- **TELLING TIME (43)** C Longsdon 9-6 ..... J Nicholls(5) 66
5 (3) 854- **BERGAMO GOLD (35)** C Johnston 9-5 ..... A Mullen 61
6 (5) 978- **HAMISH LEEK (43)** James Horton 9-5 ..... J Mitchell 60
7 (8) 34534- **LEXINGTON EXPRESS (89)** M Botti 9-5 ..... M Ghiani 60
8 (12) 537L-54 **FLYING MACS (20)** M Usher 9-1 ..... H Doyle ★67
9 (2) 0L03L-L **AKRIVOS (20)** I Williams 9-0 ..... E Greatrex 65
10 (4) 7L7- **MONTU (57)** Jack Jones 8-13 ..... C Fallon 56
11 (7) LLL-4 **EXHIBITION MATCH (15)** Ollie Sangster 8-13 ..... S D Bowen 61
12 (9) 4L-76 **CURATED (7)** Ollie Sangster 8-13 ..... N Currie 63

BLINKERS: No. 12 VISOR: Nos. 1, 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 6, 8.

SP FORECAST: 4 Bergamo Gold, 5 Popty Ping, 7 Telling Time, 8 Lexington Express, Exhibition Match, Silver State, 10 Thanh Nam, Flying Macs, 12 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Rossa Ryan 20% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Carroll 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 8.00 Moretons (blinkers), 8.30 Hamish Leek (cheek pieces), Flying Macs (cheek pieces), Silver State (visor). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.30 Secret Road(hcp). 6.00 Betsen(hcp). 6.30 Harlequin Bay, Sparksmith. 7.00 Skycutter(hcp). 7.30 Charlie's Choice(hcp), Shihoku(hcp). 8.00 Moretons(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Billy Bathgate** (7.00) 230 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 6.00 **Cajetan** from J Channon to R Carr. 8.00 **Wisetanck** from Lemos Souza to R Hughes. 8.30 **Lexington Express** from Alice Haynes to M Botti.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Lambourn: LASKO DES OBEAUX (1.30 Carlisle)
Midlands: HOW'S THE GUVNOR (5.30 Wolverhampton)
Newmarket: PRINCE QUATTRO (7.00 Wolverhampton)
West: GRAND VENDETTA (2.12 Taunton)

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) J Snowden 75% (2 wins and 4 places from 8 runners), M Herrington 73% (3/5/11), T Culhane & S Barclay 67% (1/3/6), T Easterby 60% (2/1/5), P Nicholls 58% (7/4/19), D M Simcock 55% (3/3/11), J Tizzard 54% (4/3/13), C Boultbee-Brooks 50% (1/3/8), D Whillans 50% (1/1/4), Daisy Hitchins 50% (2/0/4), F O'Brien 50% (3/7/20), G Scott 50% (3/2/10), K Woollacott 50% (1/1/4), P Neville 50% (1/2/6).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Freddie Gingell 67% (3 wins and 1 places from 6 runners), Oliver Stammers 67% (1/3/6), James Bowen 64% (4/10/22), Kevin Brogan 55% (4/2/11), Luke Morris 54% (9/11/37), Rowan Scott 54% (2/5/13), Brendan Powell 50% (4/5/18), Cieren Fallon 50% (2/3/10), Freddie Keighley 50% (1/2/6), Rian Corcoran 50% (1/2/6), Saffie Osborne 50% (1/2/6).

1.30 RACING TV NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m 1f (12 declared)

1 L9P **BLAZING ECHO (19)** Eloise Quayle 5 11-5 ..... P J Kavanagh –
2 L7-4LRF **DELAYED CHARM (9)** M Barnes 5 11-5 ..... R Chapman 91
3 516 **DOUBLE INDEMNITY (39)** D McCain 6 11-5 ..... T Gillard –
4 1/177-2 **IT'S TOP (20) (F) (T)** O Signy 6 11-5 ..... G Sheehan ★121
5 0U3-31P **JONZAC (10)** P Morris 6 11-5 ..... T Wynne –
6 6PU-243 **KARMA DE COTTE (19)** Mrs J Stephen 6 11-5 ..... J Hamilton 99
7 2-23 **LASKO DES OBEAUX (47) (T) (S)** Harry Derham 5 11-5 ..... Paul O'Brien 113
8 2365 **PARTY IN THE PARK (36)** A Hamilton 5 11-5 ..... D McMenamin 111
9 655PP/5 **ROAD TO ROSLEY (51)** J E Dixon 9 11-5 ..... Mr John Dixon(7) 84
10 3-7 **SWINGFORTHEFENCE (19)** J Candlish 5 11-5 ..... Sean Quinlan 89
11 549 **TAKEYOUTOTHEISLAND (19)** N Alexander 6 11-5 ..... B Lynn 85
12 2 ● **THORNEYLANDS (54)** N Richards 6 11-5 ..... B Hughes –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 It's Top, 13-8 Lasko Des Obeaux, 9-2 Thorneylands, 6 Party In The Park, 25 Karma De Cotte, Double Indemnity, 50 Swingforthefence, 66 Delayed Charm, 100 Others.
2025: More Coko 5-11-12, Mr Patrick Mullins 1-5 Fav (W P Mullins), 9 ran.

2.00 RACINGTV.COM BEGINNERS' CHASE
£7,922 (3) 2m 4f 198yds (4)

1 1P-335F **FIRST CONFESSION (25) (T)** J Tizzard 7 11-5 ..... B J Powell ★140
2 6431-4L **SCARLET JET (66)** N Alexander 6 11-5 ..... B Lynn –
3 21312-7 ● **THANK YOU MA'AM (269) (T)** G Nicholls 7 11-5 **F Lambert(3)** –
4 15L-L34 **DELLA CASA LUNGA (38) (T)** C Boultbee-Brooks 8 10-12 ..... R Patrick –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4
CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Della Casa Lunga, 9-4 First Confession, 5-2 Thank You Ma'am, 10 Scarlet Jet.

2.35 EBF MARES' 'NAT HUNT' NOVS' HURDLE
£5,991 (4) 2m 3f 61yds (8)

1 29-13 **FUTURE BUCKS (46) (F) (T)** J Snowden 5 11-9 ..... G Sheehan ★113
2 5P-1PL **JUST AN ARTIST (21)** N Alexander 5 11-9 ..... B Lynn 107
3 49-21 **OH CLARE (44) (D) (T)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-9 ..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr 107
4 4-0LP **AM I BOVVERED (5)** S Forster 6 11-2 ..... P W Wadge –
5 L **BOLLIN SKITTLE (51)** D Whillans 6 11-2 ..... Craig Nichol –
6 2 **ROSIE MAHLER (80) (T)** Harry Derham 6 11-2 ..... Paul O'Brien 104
7 212 ● **SEVARANA (44) (T)** R Bandey 6 11-2 ..... H Bannister 111
8 L7L **STRATHCATCHA (65)** Gary Rutherford 6 11-2 ..... E Austin(5) –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1
HOOD: Nos. 2, 4, 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Rosie Mahler, 11-4 Sevarana, 3 Future Bucks, 4 Oh Clare, 8 Just An Artist, 33 Bollin Skittle, 200 Am I Bovvered, 250 Strathcatcha.
2025: Vroomoz Eile 6-11-2, Charlotte Jones 8-1 (J Moffatt), 5 ran.

THE SCOUT

1.30 Thorneylands
2.00 Thank You Ma'am
2.35 Sevarana
3.05 Celestial Fashion
3.35 Medieval Gold
4.04 Lord De Vinci
4.34 Masked Blagny

3.05 RACING TV MARES' HANDICAP CHASE
£6,733 (4) 2m 4f 198yds (6)

1 4U-2203 **ILOVETHENIGHTLIFE (20) (D) (T)** J Tizzard 8 12-0 ..... B J Powell ★124
2 U52541- **LADY IN THE PARK (285)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11-9 ..... D R Fox 119
3 0-43555 **SUNSET HILL (19)** S Corbett 7 11-4 ..... N Moscrop 123
4 222-141 ● **CELESTIAL FASHION (12) (C)** I Duncan 8 10-10 .. C Bewley 118
5 3L-ULP5 **SIMILAR STORY (9)** W Coltherd 8 10-5 ..... Sean Quinlan 102
6 13-7432 **DIVAS DOYEN (67) (C,F)** S Forster 9 10-2 ..... P W Wadge 114

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 6.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 1, 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Celestial Fashion, 2 Lady In The Park, 9-2 Ilovethenightlife, 10 Sunset Hill, 14 Divas Doyen, 20 Similar Story.
2025: Gipsy Lee Rose 11-10-11, Bruce Lynn 9-2 (N Alexander), 6 ran.

3.35 WATCH RACING TV HANDICAP HURDLE
£6,073 (4) 2m 1f (11)

1 11-3112 **SMART DECISION (17) (C&D)** T Easterby 5 12-2 ..... Mr William Easterby(5) ★122
2 1340-L1 **KIENTZHEIM (67)** B Haslam 6 11-13 ..... K Brogan 118
3 4-30145 **DUNKERQUE (F157) (D)** J Candlish 6 11-11 ..... Sean Quinlan 118
4 2/134-21 ● **MEDIEVAL GOLD (65) (C&D,F)** P Neville 6 11-9 .. B Hughes 119
5 54121-2 **THAT ONE (65) (D)** J Walton 7 11-8 ..... C Bewley 121
6 213-231 **HAARAR (45) (D)** S England 7 11-5 ..... J England 117
7 2L4-41 **GINTIME (39) (D)** N Richards 6 11-2 ..... D McMenamin 111
8 6068-LL **RAFFERTY'S RETURN (54) (C)** R Menzies 11 11-2 .. R Chapman 119
9 1131-P5 **LADY BABS (61) (C&D)** A Crook 12 11-1 ..... C Rabbitt(3) 118
10 323727 **BOOK OF SECRETS (85) (D)** J Moffatt 8 11-1 ..... L Norcei(10) 120
11 213669 **SPARTAN WARRIOR (43)** M Barnes 5 10-4 ..... P J Kavanagh 118

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 8, 10, 11
CHEEK PIECES: No. 9
HOOD: No. 10.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 2, 9, 4, 8, 1.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Medieval Gold, 10-3 Smart Decision, 11-2 Gintime, 7 Haarar, 8 Kientzheim, 10 That One, 12 Dunkerque, 16 Book of Secrets, 25 Others.
2025: Golden Maverick 5-11-7, Gavin Sheehan 9-2 (J Snowden), 8 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 18% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** D McCain 18% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.30 Party In The Park (tongue strap), 3.05 Sunset Hill (cheek pieces), 3.35 Medieval Gold (tongue strap), 4.04 Shadow Chaser (cheek pieces), Joie More (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.30 Thorneylands. 3.35 Smart Decision(hcp hdl).

CARLISLE RACINGTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

4.04 RACING TV HANDICAP CHASE
£5,281 (5) 3m 110yds (14)

1 4242-6P **ORKNEY BLUE (55)** N Alexander 8 12-0 ..... K Brogan 103
2 63-2P1L **WHOLLY BOLEY (32) (D)** D Bourke 8 12-0 ..... T Gillard ★110
3 2-L5L14 **SUPER CITIZEN (36) (C&D)** Lucinda Hughes 12 11-10 ..... B Hughes 106
4 PP-2772 **SHADOW CHASER (19)** M Walford 7 11-7 ..... J Hamilton 105
5 P5PP-64 **RACEVIEW ROAD (32)** G Bewley 8 11-5 ..... J Bewley 104
6 4959-4L ● **LORD DE VINCI (33)** D Bourke 8 11-2 ..... C Bewley 95
7 P-54621 **UPTOWN HARRY (19) (C&D)** Mrs J Walton 12 11-1 ..... C Maggs(5) 105
8 1P21P9 **JUDICIAL REVIEW (37)** J Moffatt 8 11-0 ..... L Norcei(10) 107
9 704598 **CARRHILL (9)** C Grant 6 10-10 ..... D McMenamin 76
10 P3-4872 **ROB ROY MACGREGOR (21)** A M Thomson 8 10-7 ..... P W Wadge 108
11 P15-F5P **GIBBERWELL (34) (D)** J Coulson 10 10-6 ..... P Armson(3) 103
12 P9-P43P **JOIE MORE (32)** Mrs J Stephen 8 10-4 ..... Sean Quinlan 103
13 5-16536 **CAVE HILL (32)** I Duncan 7 10-3 ..... A Doyle(3) 106
14 L5-LL56 **WHISPERING DANCER (13)** S Corbett 7 10-2 ..... N Moscrop 103

BLINKERS: Nos. 8, 11
VISOR: Nos. 7, 13
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 8, 9, 12, 13
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 9, 10, 14.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 11, 8, 5, 10, 3, 7, 2.

SP FORECAST: 3 Uptown Harry, 9-2 Shadow Chaser, Rob Roy Macgregor, 8 Orkney Blue, 10 Lord De Vinci, 12 Super Citizen, 14 Carrhill, Wholly Boley, 16 Others.
2025: Don Brocco 9-10-2, Sean Quinlan 7-1 (Gary Rutherford), 15 ran.

4.34 RACEDAY 16TH FEB 'JUNIOR' NH FLAT 4YO
£2,112 (5) 2m 1f (7)

1 BARRACILLA (T) T H Weston 11-2 ..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr –
2 IRISH GOODBYE (T) N & W Twiston-Davies 11-2 ..... T McCain-Mitchell(5) –
3 JIMMY GATZ (T) O Murphy 11-2 ..... J Bowen –
4 4L MARVEL MAGIC (35) L Russell & M Scudamore 11-2 ..... D R Fox ★97
5 ● MASKED BLAGNY (T) S Edmunds 11-2 ..... C Hammond –
6 4 MASTERFIELD (59) O Greenall & J Guerriero 11-2 ..... Craig Nichol 94
7 SUCCESS STORY (T) C Boultbee-Brooks 11-2 ..... R Patrick –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 3 Jimmy Gatz, 7-2 Masked Blagny, 4 Success Story, Irish Goodbye, 8 Barracilla, 10 Masterfield, 14 Marvel Magic.
2025: No corresponding race.

LONGEST TRAVELLER: First Confession (2.00) & **Ilovethenightlife** (3.05) 327 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 3.35 **Dunkerque** from G Cromwell in Ireland to J Candlish, **Medieval Gold** from M Hammond to P Neville. 4.04 **Shadow Chaser** from A M Thomson to M Walford.

1.40 NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) (DIV 1)
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m 3f 1yds (9 declared)

1 92-131 **CREST OF STARS (26) (C)** A Honeyball 5 11-9 ..... S Twiston-Davies 119
2 3-31 ● **KINGS CHAMPION (32)** O Murphy 6 11-9 ..... S Bowen ★126
3 **ANGEL WAVE** S Thomas 5 11-2 ..... D Johnston –
4 73 **BYE BYE SALAM (35)** J Scott 5 11-2 ..... L Williams 108
5 8L **HANNIBAL BOGAN (54)** J Frost 8 11-2 ..... C Deutsch 90
6 4-270FP **KINGS ORDER (44)** E Williams 5 11-2 ..... B R Jones 59
7 6L **LIKE A DANCER (25)** E Williams 5 11-2 ..... C Ring 63
8 05 **MARHABA MILLION (26)** S Hosie 5 11-2 ..... R Dingle 73
9 1/54- **TALK TO THE MAN (318)** P Nicholls 6 11-2 ..... H Cobden –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8.

SP FORECAST: Evens Kings Champion, 9-4 Crest Of Stars, 5 Talk To The Man, 8 Angel Wave, 14 Bye Bye Salam, 100 Kings Order, 150 Marhaba Million, Like A Dancer, Hannibal Bogan.

2.12 NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) (DIV 2)
£5,446 (4) 2m 3f 1yds (9)

1 21-6143 **WANDERING EGO (38)** O Murphy 6 11-9 ..... S Bowen ★129
2 6 **BRISKY DANCER (59)** S Thomas 5 11-2 ..... D Johnston 85
3 6P8 **CREST OF VALOUR (19)** A Honeyball 5 11-2 ..... S Twiston-Davies 44
4 LLL **DINO MOON (12)** E Williams 5 11-2 ..... Isabel Williams 66
5 U86 **DRAGONS AND DEMONS (19)** R Walford 5 11-2 ..... H Kimber 92
6 2 ● **GRAND VENDETTA (59) (S)** P Nicholls 6 11-2 ..... H Cobden 122
7 **INKAMAN (F991)** J Scott 6 11-2 ..... L Williams –
8 212/P78 **JOYAU ALLEN (17)** P Nicholls 7 11-2 ..... F Gingell 112
9 6L543/ **LUNCHABLE BOB (1236)** Gordon Treacy 11 11-2 ..... R Corcoran(7) –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 7.

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Grand Vendetta, 11-8 Wandering Ego, 12 Brisky Dancer, Joyau Allen, 20 Inkaman, 25 Dragons And Demons, 50 Crest Of Valour, Lunchable Bob, 100 Dino Moon.

2.45 DRAGONBET MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE
£8,169 (3) 2m 104yds (7)

1 500L-61 **QUEENIE ST CLAIR (39)** Nick Scholfield 6 11-8 **F Keighley(7)** 115
2 43-52 **BEAUTY IN THE PARK (17)** P Nicholls 6 11-2 ..... H Cobden ★116
3 7 **CAST'S GEORGIE (23)** R Walford 5 11-2 ..... H Kimber 77
4 3UP-3 **GEORDIES BETTY (23)** K Bishop 6 11-2 ..... Sean Houlihan 105
5 6 **LORO WHITE (34)** O Murphy 5 11-2 ..... S Bowen –
6 6/2-09 **SHANAGOLDEN GIRL (17)** F O'Brien 6 11-2 ..... J Best 104
7 4-444 ● **YELD TO CALL (20)** Mrs J Williams 5 11-2 ..... C Gethings 111

HOOD: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 10-11 Beauty In The Park, 5-2 Queenie St Clair, 11-2 Yeld To Call, 12 Loro White, 16 Geordies Betty, 33 Shanagolden Girl, 50 Cast's Georgie.

THE SCOUT

1.40 KINGS CHAMPION (nb)
2.12 Grand Vendetta
2.45 Yeld To Call
3.15 Phoenix Risen
3.45 Captain Boudet
4.15
PALAWAN DU MAZET (nap)
4.45 Dish Of The Day

3.15 LANDLORD'S RACEDAY HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,545 (4) 2m 104yds (7)

1 551P1-L **IMAGINARIUM (31) (D)** O Murphy 7 12-0 ..... S Bowen 119
2 111LP/7 **DOYEN STAR (65) (D)** E Williams 8 11-11 ..... B R Jones 104
3 21-1523 **COURAGEOUS STRIKE (24) (D)** P Nicholls 5 11-7 ..... H Cobden 120
4 62L505 **TEORIE (19) (D)** Daisy Hitchins 6 11-1 ..... L Murtagh 116
5 493L-32 ● **PHOENIX RISEN (49) (C&D)** J Scott 9 10-11 ..... C Bament(7) 122
6 24313 **PREMIER (20) (C&D,F)** W Greatrex 4 10-5 ..... S T-Davies ★123
7 4111-P5 **DAANY (26) (D)** J Tickle 9 10-2 ..... Taylor Fisher 93

BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 HOOD: Nos. 3, 6.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Courageous Strike, 9-4 Phoenix Risen, 3 Premier, 10 Imaginarium, 16 Doyen Star, 25 Teorie, 33 Daany.
2025: Saint Anapolino 6-11-12, Micheal Nolan 10-3 Fav (P Hobbs & J White), 14 ran.

3.45 MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£9,242 (3) 2m 7f 3yds (4)

1 11P/3P-P **BRAVE KINGDOM (66) (D)** P Nicholls 10 12-0 ..... H Cobden –
2 23-12L3 **ROYAL JEWEL (38)** P Hobbs & J White 7 12-0 ..... B R Jones 130
3 L112-13 **GOOD FRIDAY FAIRY (25) (C)** Ben Clarke 9 11-9 ..... Doubtful
4 12LP-4L **BUCKSY DES EPEIRES (44)** V Williams 7 11-6 ..... C Deutsch 126
5 1P1-L2P ● **CAPTAIN BOUDET (20)** J Scott 7 10-10 ..... C Bament(7) ★132

BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Royal Jewel, 2 Brave Kingdom, 4 Bucksy Des Epeires, 5 Captain Boudet.
2025: Jupiter Allen 6-11-4, David Noonan 9-1 (Mrs J Williams), 9 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Heavy. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Harry Cobden 33% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** P Nicholls 32% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.12 Inkaman (tongue strap, wind surgery), 4.15 Falco Des Pins (wind surgery), Just Aidan (cheek pieces), Nedzor (cheek pieces), 4.45 It's A Breeze (hood, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 3.45 Bucksy Des Epeires(hcp ch), Good Friday Fairy(hcp ch). 4.15 Falco Des Pins(hcp ch), Nedzor(hcp hdl). 4.45 Dish Of The Day(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Kings Champion** (1.40), **Wandering Ego** (2.12), **Loro White** (2.45), **Imaginarium** (3.15) 121 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.12 **Inkaman** from A King to J Scott, **Lunchable Bob** from P Henderson to Gordon Treacy.

TAUNTON RACINGTV

4.15 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£5,968 (5) 2m 2f 40yds (8)

1 51FL33 **JAITROPLACLASSE (19)** R L Llewellyn 7 12-0 ..... Charlie Price 103
2 2/PL88-L **FALCO DES PINS (86)** V Williams 6 11-6 ..... C Deutsch 87
3 P9-434L **STORMING NELSON (7)** Mrs S Gardner 7 11-4 ..... Lucy Gardner 98
4 383-226 **NEDZOR (26)** Henry Oliver 7 10-13 ..... R T Dunne 102
5 3116-P7 **JUST AIDAN (19)** H Dickin 7 10-12 ..... J Best –
6 7/334-8L **HOLY LEGEND (17)** Alexandra Dunn 7 10-10 ..... L Williams 54
7 8/555D-5 ● **PALAWAN DU MAZET (54)** A Jones 7 10-4 ..... J M Davies ★109
8 P/3PLP-L **JOKER JACK (54)** Claire Hitch 7 10-2 ..... B Godfrey –

BLINKERS: No. 7
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4, 5.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Jaitroplaclasse, 5-2 Nedzor, 7 Storming Nelson, 10 Falco Des Pins, Just Aidan, Palawan Du Mazet, 12 Holy Legend, 50 Joker Jack.
2025: Siam Park 6-11-9, Brendan Powell 5-1 (J Tizzard), 12 ran.

4.45 HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,753 (5) 2m 3f 1yds (10)

1 626-L13 **OUR DYLAN (26) (D)** K Woollacott 10 12-0 ..... R Corcoran(7) 102
2 L85/L66 **ROAD SENAM (59)** Ella Pickard 10 11-13 ..... Miss M Bevan(7) 88
3 011/P-P5 **ILOT DE L'ISLE (14) (F)** R Bandey 8 11-9 ..... J Quinlan 95
4 36L-388 **IT'S A BREEZE (17)** P Nicholls 7 11-5 ..... J Tidball(5) 94
5 286-9L3 **OURBROWNEYEDGIRL (5)** Mrs S Gardner 7 11-2 ..... Lucy Gardner 104
6 313-255 **TARITINO (17) (C)** J Tickle 6 10-13 ..... Taylor Fisher 109
7 6561-PL **WHATMAKES HONEY B (25) (C&D)** H Brown 7 10-11 ..... C Bament(7) 104
8 5-LL736 **ASK PETER (61)** A Honeyball 7 10-10 ..... J Robottom(10) 105
9 P/F06P3- ● **DISH OF THE DAY (330)** Nicky Martin 8 10-9 ..... S Bowen 107
10 46-LPPU **BOSSOFTHEBUS (14)** E Williams 7 10-7 ..... C Ring ★112

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8, 10
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 9
HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Our Dylan, 11-4 Dish Of The Day, 9-2 Ourbrowneyedgirl, 8 Ilot De L'isle, Taritino, 10 Ask Peter, 14 It's A Breeze, 33 Whatmakes Honey B, Road Senam, 50 Bossofthebus.
2025: Rodney 6-10-12, Richard Patrick 14-1 (Kerry Lee), 10 ran.

C - Carlisle
T - Taunton
W - Wolverhampton

Akrivos	W 8.30	Captain Robert	W 7.00	Far Too Fizzy	W 8.00	Lucky Sevens	W 6.30	Prince Quattro	W 7.00	Success Story	C 4.34
Am I Bovvered	C 2.35	Carrhill	C 4.04	First Confession	C 2.00	Lunchable Bob	T 2.12	Queenie St Clair	T 2.45	Sunset Hill	C 3.05
Analeesa	W 6.30	Cast's Georgie	T 2.45	Flash Rascal	W 8.00	Many A Star	W 6.00	Raceview Road	C 4.04	Super Citizen	C

WORLD OF SPORT

Wu will conquer the world, says Rocket

SNOOKER

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN has tipped the Chinese star Wu Yize to be world No.1 within three years.

The Rocket sees shades of six-time world champion Steve Davis in Wu, whose triumph against John Higgins in the International Championship last November earned the 22-year-old his first ranking title.

WU

Wu also knocked out defending champion Shaun Murphy at the Masters last month before losing a final frame decider in the semi-finals to Kyren Wilson. Speaking ahead of the World Grand Prix, which starts today in Hong Kong, O'Sullivan said: "Wu Yize is gong to be world No.1, I'd give him three years, definitely going to be world champion very, very soon. Phenomenal player.

"He's more dynamic, more cue power, more aggressive, more scoring power but his positional play for me is on the level of Steve Davis. I expect him to do a lot of great things."

THE BIG PICTURE

SOFT LANDING: Runners clear a fence at Kempton

CYCLING

BRITISH sprinter Emma Finucane has broken the women's flying 200m track world record at the 2026 UEC European Track Championships.

The 23-year-old became just the third woman to go under 10 seconds when she clocked a time of 9.759secs in qualifying for the individual sprint in Konya, Turkey.

Finucane, who eclipsed Chinese rider Yuan Liying's 9.976, said: "I set the stakes high, I let everyone know that I wanted to break this world record. To look at the board and see 9.759 and break the world record is unbelievable."

Britain's Millie Couzens, Katie Archibald, Josie Knight and Anna Morris broke the world record for the women's team pursuit in qualifying, then clocked a new best of 4mins 2.808secs to win gold.

10 to tackle

1. For which club do wicketkeepers Phil Salt and Michael Pepper play in the 2025-2026 International League T20?
2. Which two countries won all three matches in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations group stage?
3. Who scored two tries for Cardiff Rugby in the URC defeat by Ospreys last month?
4. Which British boxer beat Luis Collazo in a WBA welterweight championship title fight in 2006?
5. Which jockey rode the 1991 Derby winner Generous?
6. Which Swedish tennis player won the men's singles title at the 2002 Australian Open?
7. Which American athlete won the men's 110m hurdles at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics?
8. Which American golfer chipped in to win the play-off for the 1987 US Masters?
9. Which American won the Superbike World Championship in 2000 and 2002?
10. Which American high jumper won gold at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City?

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Abu Dhabi Knight Riders. 2 Algeria and Nigeria. 3 Josh Adams. 4 Ricky Hatton. 5 Alan Munro. 6 Thomas Johansson. 7 Roger Kingdom. 8 Larry Mize. 9 Colin Edwards. 10 Dick Fosbury.

What we want, what we really, really want, is... an Olympic medal

SPICE GIRLS SOUNDTRACK POWERING PODIUM BID FOR FEAR AND GIBSON

BY **PAUL MARTIN**

LILAH FEAR hopes a Spice Girls setlist can help turn the clock back to the 1990s and return Great Britain to figure skating's Olympic podium.

The recently-honoured Dame Jayne Torvill and Sir Christopher Dean were the most recent British pairing to earn a Winter Olympic medal in the sport, a bronze at Lillehammer 1994, but Fear and her skating partner Lewis Gibson have been hotly-tipped to end the drought at Milano Cortina this month.

They won World Championship bronze in Boston last March and the pair are turning to the British pop icons in a bid to ensure they secure a place on the podium on the biggest stage of all.

Fear said: "For the rhythm dance, they give you a theme each year and this year it was the '90s.

"That was great for us. We are the British team and we are so proud to represent Great Britain in an Olympic season.

"We are huge fans of the Spice Girls and every single song is a banger, so we couldn't go wrong.

"We had so much fun with the creative side of that and showing our personalities in the five different Spice Girls on the ice."

Fear, 26, and Gibson, 31, made their Olympic debuts at Beijing 2022, when they finished 10th and were contacted on social media by rock giants KISS, whose songs provided the backdrop to the short programme.

And the Londoner is daring to dream that Posh, Ginger, Sporty, Scary or Baby Spice might do likewise. Fear said: "We would lose it if that happened and be so beyond excited, because we are such fans of theirs.

"They inspired us enormously and getting to portray all that they represent out on the Olympic ice, the empowerment, just being yourself and going for it in what you are passionate about, is so impactful for us. It would be amazing if they supported in any way."

> "Every song is a banger, so we couldn't go wrong"

It will not just be Spice Girls tracks lighting up the ice when Fear and Gibson take to the stage.

Gibson, for his part, cannot wait for a Tartan takeover in Milano Cortina as he sets his sights on ending Britain's wait for a figure skating medal with a Scottish setlist. They perform their free dance to a backdrop of crowd-pleasing classics from north of the border, which the patriotic Gibson, who hails from Prestwick in Ayrshire, cannot wait to take to the biggest stage.

Gibson said: "Representing Britain at the Olympics, the Scottish medley just seemed like the right fit.

"We have Flower of Scotland, then I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles), The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond and then Auld Lang Syne. There is a bit of a Lilah and Lewis twist with it being revved up, but the melody is so well known all over the world. We train in an environment where there are people from all over the world training and every time it plays they all sing it. 500 Miles – everyone knows that song.

"That's just how universal it is. Shout out Craig and Charlie [Reid – the brothers who make up the Proclaimers]." Fear and Gibson are Britain's most decorated ice dance pairing of all time, ending last year by claiming their eighth national title as well as a second consecutive bronze at the prestigious ISU Grand Prix Final.

Gibson, who earmarks Tom Daley as an Olympic role model, is embracing the pressure that has come with their eye-catching results and knows finishing on the podium would be the perfect way to mark the 10th anniversary of the pairing.

"If people were not saying we could medal then I would be wishing they were," he said.

"The support we have, and our results, of course, brings a bit of pressure but at the same time it is amazing."

BRITS TO WATCH

BY **MEGAN ARMITAGE**

Matt Weston (Skeleton)

Weston (below) has gone from strength to strength since his first Olympics at Beijing in 2022.

The 28-year-old from Surrey goes into his second Games as a two-time world champion and has also won back-to-back overall World Cup titles.

Marcus Wyatt (Skeleton)

Wyatt has stormed the ice, with a European title in 2024 and a World Championship silver in 2025. The 34-year-old from Devon finished second in the overall World Cup last season and could make the podium in the men's and the mixed event.

Zoe Atkin (Freestyle skiing halfpipe)

Atkin became world champion last season to complete her medals set, while also winning a share of the FIS Freestyle Ski Halfpipe Crystal Globe for the overall season with China's Li Fanghui. The American-born 23-year-old finished ninth at her first Olympics in Beijing and hopes to follow older sister Izzy, who was the first Briton to win an Olympic skiing medal, at PyeongChang in 2018.

Mia Brookes (Snowboarding)

Brookes (right) is primed to cruise into her first Olympics as a history-maker. The 19-year-old from Sandbach in

TWIRL POWER
Fear and Gibson, who claimed European bronze this month (right) get set for Italian job, inspired by the Spice Girls (below)

YOUR UNOFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS
ICE GOLD
TEAM GB'S MEDAL HOPES, DAY-BY-DAY RUNDOWN AND THE GLOBAL SUPERSTARS NOT TO MISS

Your guide to the Games - all you need to know about the Winter Olympics. Order now by scanning the QR code or by visiting reachshops.co.uk/winterolympics. Also available at participating retailers.

GREAT BRITAIN HAVE WON 15 FIGURE SKATING MEDALS AT THE OLYMPICS

London 1908
Gold - Madge Syers (Ladies singles)
Silver - Phyllis Johnson and James H Johnson (Pairs)
Silver - Arthur Cumming (Men's special figures)
Bronze - Geoffrey Hall-Say (Men's special figures)
Bronze - Dorothy Greenhough-Smith (Ladies singles)
Bronze - Madge Syers and Edgar Syers (Pairs)

Antwerp 1920
Bronze - Phyllis Johnson and Basil Williams (Pairs)

Chamonix 1924
Bronze - Ethel Muckelt (Ladies singles)

Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936
Silver - Cecilia Colledge (Ladies singles)

St Moritz 1948
Bronze - Heannett Altwegg (Ladies singles)

Oslo 1952
Gold - Jeannette Altwegg (Ladies singles)

Innsbruck 1976
Gold - John Curry (Men's singles)

Lake Placid 1980
Gold - Robin Cousins (Men's singles)

Sarajevo 1984
Gold - Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean (Ice dancing)

Lillehammer 1994
Bronze - Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean (Ice dancing)

THE LAST DANCE
Torvill and Dean are the most recent GB medallists

Cheshire won snowboard slopestyle gold in 2023 to become the nation's first world champion in the event. With back-to-back Big Air crystal globes and multiple X Games medals, Brookes is one of Britain's most exciting debutants.

Bruce Mouat (Curling)

The 31-year-old from Edinburgh (above) has led his rink to the title of global champions twice, in 2023 and 2025, as well as banking a record-breaking four Grand Slam titles in one season. Mouat has led the side since 2017. The same four that earned silver at Beijing 2022 chase the only title to elude them: Olympic gold. He will team up with Jen Dodds for the mixed doubles.

Kirsty Muir (Freestyle skiing)

Even injury could not stop Muir's rise. The 21-year-old tore her ACL in December 2023. But just two months after her return, the Aberdeen skier reached the top of the podium for the first time with slopestyle gold in Tignes, France. And with a maiden Big Air World Cup gold in November 2025, Muir will arrive at her second Olympics full of confidence.

Dave Ryding (Alpine skiing)

Ryding (above) is a legend of the sport and, at 39, will be competing in his fifth and final Olympics. The most successful British skier of all time, Ryding, from Chorley, clinched World Cup victory at Kitzbuhel in January 2022 and led Britain to their best World Championship finish in 91 years in 2025 with a sixth place in the men's slalom.

Joe Davies (Cross-country)

The 24-year-old grew up in British Columbia and represented the Canadian Nordic programme before switching to Great Britain in 2022. Sixth place last month in the men's 10km free mass start in Italy showcased the youngster's rising form in the lead-up to his first Olympics.

Adele Nicoll (Bobsleigh)

A national shot put champion, Nicoll (right) took up bobsleigh in 2020. After helping Team GB finish 17th in the two-woman bobsled at Beijing in 2022 as a reserve, the 29-year-old is now the pilot. Nicoll clinched her best monobob finish on the World Cup circuit with 12th place last month and has two World Cup two-woman medals.

WORDS APART Big rivals Verstappen (left) and Russell

RUSSELL GEARS UP TO TALK THE TORQUE AT MAX

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

GEORGE RUSSELL is revving up for what he hopes will be a title showdown with bitter rival Max Verstappen.

The pair have clashed several times, including incidents in which Verstappen has branded Russell a "d***head", a "loser" and a "liar", while the British driver has labelled his Red Bull counterpart a "bully".

Russell has not yet had the equipment to challenge the four-time world champion on track.

That could change, with Mercedes confident in their 2026 car and engine. Russell admitted he is desperate to do his talking on the track.

"I'd love for it to turn out that way," the 27-year-old said. "I do want to go head-to-head with Max."

Russell starts as favourite for the drivers' title, given the hype around Mercedes' new power unit, but will not change his approach.

It was a strategy that worked well for Lando Norris as he delivered the championship for McLaren last year.

Russell said: "Lando had a great season, but, no, it doesn't add any more pressure. Probably the fans are expecting it to potentially be Mercedes versus McLaren. There is a lot of anticipation that Mercedes will clearly have the best power unit, but it seems like the other power unit manufacturers have done a good job.

"We know Red Bull always have an amazing car. Even through the years of dominance of Mercedes – the engine was letting them down.

"We know how good Max is, so he's very much going to be in the fight. And that's great.

"If you're going to win, you want to have fought for it, and won it fair and square on track."

After winning eight constructors' championships in a row under the previous rules cycle, Mercedes have been frustrated since 2022, with just seven Grand Prix victories in the past four seasons.

Team principal Toto Wolff has bluntly rubbished recent Mercedes cars and Russell added: "We've only driven the new car for three days, but, quoting Toto, it doesn't look like it's a turd."

Wolff said: "It's always nice if your driver is the favourite and he deserves it. He's one of the best."

Wolff packs a punch

MERCEDES boss Toto Wolff has told rival teams to "get your s*** together" and stop looking for "excuses".

Critics believe Mercedes have exploited a loophole in the new rules to boost their engine and lap times.

But Wolff (right) hit back: "The power unit is legal. That is what the FIA has said.

"I don't understand why some teams concentrate more on others and keep arguing.

"So, get your s*** together. But maybe you want to find excuses before you start?"

Record-breaking win is Justin time to pursue Grand dream

BY **NEIL MCLEMAN**

JUSTIN ROSE revealed he still dreams of completing his career Grand Slam after breaking Tiger Woods' scoring record to win the Farmers Insurance Open.

And the Ryder Cup star, now 45, showed he is not ready to become the next European captain, if Luke Donald decides against standing again in 2027.

"I still believe there's good stuff in front of me," said the new world No.3.

Rose opened with a 62 and became the first wire-to-wire winner at Torrey Pines for 71 years as he finished on 23-under 265. It was one better than Tiger Woods (above) in 1999 and George Burns in 1987.

"Sorry, T-dub, if you're watching," Rose told US TV after his seven-shot win. "I was keenly aware of it, actually. It was the only thing I was focused on the last three holes."

Rose was world No.55 a year ago, but shot a closing 66 at The Masters before losing a play-off and then played superbly at the Ryder Cup.

And after rating his tee-to-green play and "mental maturity" his best ever in California, Rose said: "Those days or those weeks or those rounds are definitely showing me that the gas is still in the tank.

"Obviously, accessing it is the job now. How do I do that more often? That's always the trick, but at least knowing it's there, it builds a lot of confidence."

His 13 PGA Tour titles have included wins at Muirfield Village, Aronimink, Merion, Congressional, Pebble Beach, Colonial and now twice at Torrey Pines – all courses that have hosted Majors or a Ryder Cup. And Vijay Singh, in 2008, is the only older man to have achieved the world No.3 ranking.

But the 2013 US Open winner, who has also won Olympic gold and made seven Ryder Cup appearances, still wants more.

Rose said: "Majors is where I have my attention, for sure.

"I've achieved a lot in the game, but I've achieved a lot of it just once. So I'll take multiple of anything.

"But if I look at my career, I've been really close to The Open, I've been really close to The Masters. The dream of winning all four was obviously the ultimate goal since I've been a kid. It seems a long way off to think that way, but if you think about some of the results I've had in the last year or 18 months, I'm not that far away, so I may as well keep believing."

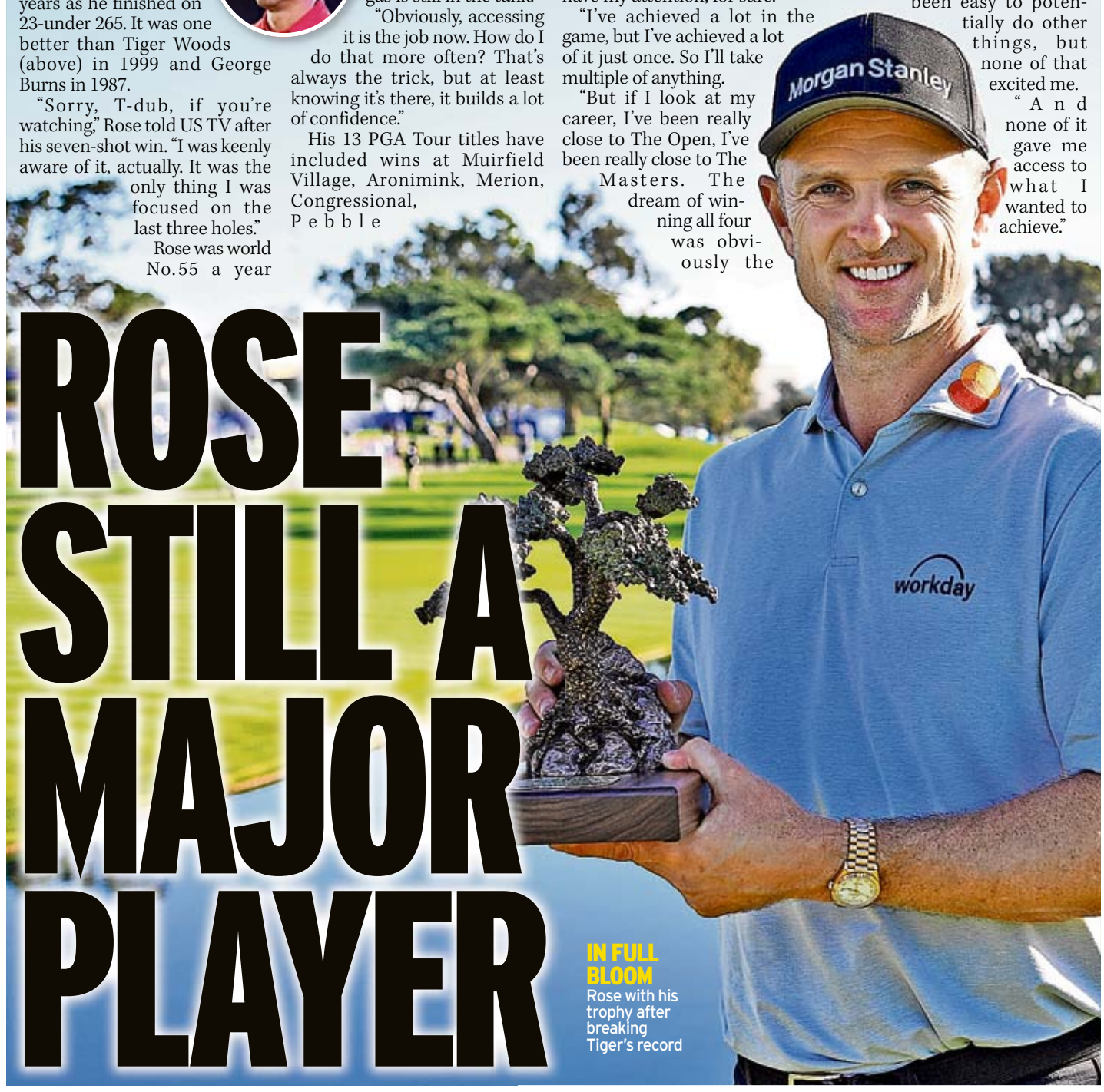
Brooks Koepka finished tied 56th on his return to the PGA Tour from LIV Golf.

But Rose, who turned down an early offer from LIV, said: "My career goals have always only been attainable by staying on the European Tour and the PGA Tour.

"I want to play the best players in the world. That is what keeps me motivated. It would have been easy to potentially do other things, but none of that excited me.

"And none of it gave me access to what I wanted to achieve."

ROSE STILL A MAJOR PLAYER



IN FULL BLOOM Rose with his trophy after breaking Tiger's record

JOS PROUD TO HIT 402 NOT OUT

CRICKET

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Kandy

JOS BUTTLER says it is surreal to have made the most England appearances and he has no plans to stop any time soon.

The 35-year-old, who made his international debut in a T20 against India in 2011, passed James Anderson's tally of England matches with his 402nd cap against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Buttler has played 57 Tests, 199 ODIs and now 146 T20s for his country and was instrumental in the 2019 World Cup win on home soil and captained England to the 2022 T20 World Cup. "I'm really proud to have played that many games," he said. "It's been an awesome journey.

"To think of that kid who would have just bitten your hand off for one game for England, to have played 400 is awesome.

"It's a bit surreal. That hunger and desire to play for England is always strong and burns bright.

"I'm just proud of myself, really, to be able to play for that long, have the resilience to come back from tough times, have the desire to get better and improve and keep turning up and working hard."

England's most treasured day in recent memory came when they won the 2019 World Cup at Lord's with the famous Super-Over victory over New Zealand.

Wicketkeeper Buttler (left) kept England alive with 59 before brilliantly running out Martin Guptill to clinch the trophy.

"The obvious one is 2019 World Cup final," he said, when asked for his favourite match. "It will take something special to top that."

Buttler was arguably the first worldwide T20 superstar and his 360-degrees approach to batting transformed England's game in white-ball cricket.

Buttler's glittering career does not come without some regrets and admits disappointment he never fully cracked Test cricket and also how his white-ball captaincy ended, resigning last February after a group-stage exit at the Champions Trophy.

"I always feel like I fell a bit short of where I wanted to be in Test cricket," Buttler added.

"I'm disappointed with how the captaincy ended."

HOORAY HENRY

Arundell handed first start for two years

HAVING A BALL Arundell fully focused during training ahead of the clash with Wales

FROM **ADAM HATHAWAY** in Girona

HENRY ARUNDELL has been handed the chance to stake a World Cup claim and backed to show Twickenham he is a better version of himself than the one who wowed at France 2023.

The Bath flyer, rated one of the quickest players in the Prem, will make his first Test start for nearly two-and-a-half years in Saturday's Six Nations opener against Wales.

The 23-year-old was last in the XV at the 2023 World Cup in France when he started the 26-23 third place play-off win against Argentina.

Arundell then went into exile with Racing 92, in Paris, after the collapse of London Irish ruling him out of England contention before rejoining the Prem, with Bath, this season.

He made a try-scoring 13-minute cameo off the bench against Fiji in November but now gets the opportunity to start to nail down a spot at Australia 2027. And boss Steve Borthwick predicted the England faithful will see a more complete player from the one who sparkled at the last World Cup, scoring five tries in one pool game against Chile.

Borthwick (right) said: "He's been through a number of experiences, and his game has become much more rounded. He's always had that incredible point of difference around his carry and pace – and that X-Factor, if anything now, is even stronger. He's even quicker than he was then.

"But he's added another dimension to his game. He's added an offload game to his carry game. He's improved defensively in the air, and that's a great credit to him."

Borthwick has always kept tabs on Arundell, even when he was across the Channel and unavailable and now the wing can prove the coach's Eurostar trips were not wasted.

He added: "I went out to Paris a couple of times to see him and Racing and I was delighted he made the decision to come back. He would message me and we kept in contact, which was great."

Arundell's inclusion came with Sale's Tom Roebuck still not right after suffering a toe injury in November but he is expected to be fit for the latter stages of the Six Nations.

Apart from Maro Itoje's spot on the bench, and Arundell's starting place, Borthwick's side is as expected with Tommy Freeman switching from wing to partner Northampton teammate Fraser Dingwall in the centre. That could prove to be a permanent switch for Freeman, who started at 13 in the 68-14 rout of Wales last year.

"He's got a number of strengths to his game," said Borthwick. "He gives us an incredible amount of ball carry with the pace he brings. Clearly there's the aerial contest work which he is very good at.

"One of the things we're seeing with him is how much he runs, particularly defensively, and we know Wales like to move the ball and move it wide to edges quickly, so having somebody with his athleticism and the amount of work he can do will be very important to us this weekend."

ENGLAND: F Steward (Leicester Tigers); I Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs), T Freeman (Northampton Saints), F Dingwall (Northampton Saints), H Arundell (Bath Rugby); G Ford (Sale Sharks), A Mitchell (Northampton Saints); E Genge (Bristol Bears), J George (Saracens, capt), J Heyes (Leicester Tigers), A Coles (Northampton Saints), O Chessum (Leicester Tigers), G Pepper (Bath Rugby), S Underhill (Bath Rugby), B Earl (Saracens).
REPLACEMENTS: L Cowan-Dickie (Sale Sharks), B Rodd (Sale Sharks), T Davison (Northampton Saints), M Itoje (Saracens), T Curry (Sale Sharks), H Pollock (Northampton Saints), B Spencer (Bath Rugby), M Smith (Harlequins).

SIX NATIONS FIXTURES

Thur, Feb 5: **France v Ireland** *(Stade de France, Paris, 8.10pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Feb 7: **Italy v Scotland** *(Stadio Olimpico, Rome, 2.10pm) live on BBC*
Sat, Feb 7: **England v Wales** *(Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, 4.40pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Feb 14: **Ireland v Italy** *(Aviva Stadium, Dublin, 2.10pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Feb 14: **Scotland v England** *(Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 4.40pm) live on ITV*
Sun, Feb 15: **Wales v France** *(Principality Stadium, Cardiff, 3.10pm) live on BBC*
Sat, Feb 21: **England v Ireland** *(Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, 2.10pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Feb 21: **Wales v Scotland** *(Principality Stadium, Cardiff, 4.40pm) live on BBC*
Sun, Feb 22: **France v Italy** *(Decathlon Arena, Lille, 3.10pm) live on ITV*
Fri, Mar 6: **Ireland v Wales** *(Aviva Stadium, Dublin, 8.10pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Mar 7: **Scotland v France** *(Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 2.10pm) live on BBC*
Sat, Mar 7: **Italy v England** *(Stadio Olimpico, Rome, 4.40pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Mar 14: **Ireland v Scotland** *(Aviva Stadium, Dublin, 2.10pm) live on ITV*
Sat, Mar 14: **Wales v Italy** *(Principality Stadium, Cardiff, 4.40pm) live on BBC*
Sat, Mar 14: **France v England** *(Stade de France, Paris, 8.10pm) live on ITV*

ITOJE CAN EXPECT FAN-TASTIC RECEPTION

FROM BACK PAGE

head coach has urged the 82,000 fans in the ground to show Itoje their love when he joins the action.

Borthwick said: "Maro and his family have been dealing with an incredible loss.

"I'm sure that the crowd will give him the roar he deserves when he comes to the touchline ready to come on the pitch and show just how much they care about him and his family. He travelled to Nigeria and back and has had a big load from a travel perspective. So, I've made the decision that he's going to be on the bench."

Hooker and former captain Jamie George (right) will lead the team but Itoje will take over as soon as he gets on the pitch and has been backed to make a big difference when he does.

Borthwick added: "I am sure he is going to have a great impact."

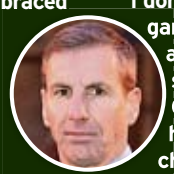
WE'VE SCOT A TEST

Italy v Scotland *Saturday 2.10pm*

BY **ANTHONY BROWN**

GONZALO QUESADA has braced his Italy side for a laser-focused Scotland to pitch up in Rome for Saturday's Guinness Six Nations opening clash.

The Azzurri head coach admitted a Stadio Olimpico showdown with the wounded Scots would not have been his preferred choice to kick off the championship.



"I don't know if it's the ideal game because Scotland lost a couple of games they shouldn't lose," said Quesada (left) ahead of his third Six Nations in charge of Italy.

"They played amazing rugby against the All Blacks and Argentina but they finish losing."

HISTORY Champ Alcaraz

Hungry Alcaraz has thirst for firsts

TENNIS

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne

CARLOS ALCARAZ is focused on yet more history after his momentous win at the Australian Open.

At 22 years and 272 days old, the Spaniard became the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam, beating 10-time former champion Novak Djokovic in Melbourne.

Alcaraz could now do what only one other man, Rod Laver, has achieved in the Open Era if he wins the calendar Grand Slam by winning all four Majors this year.

The world No.1 said: "It's going to be a big challenge.

"I just want it to be one at a time. Right now the next one is the French Open."

Now a seven-time Major winner aged 22, Alcaraz has set his sights on winning other prestigious tournaments for the first time.

He added: "I just really wanted to complete all the Masters 1000. Obviously, the ATP Finals and the Davis Cup. I really wanted to achieve that for my country."

Tim Henman has already tipped Alcaraz to join Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer by winning at least 20 Majors in his career.

The former British No.1 told TNT Sports: "We're speculating that Alcaraz will win 20 Grand Slam events, and will [Jannik] Sinner do the same? Is it unfair to speculate? I don't think so. Is it unrealistic? I don't think so."

Djokovic had never been closer to a historic 25th Grand Slam title.

The Serbian superstar, now 38, has lowered his expectations, but still believes he can win another Major.

The world No.3 said: "I have belief and I have always confidence and vision to win a slam."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Premier League

SUNDERLAND (2)...3 BURNLEY (0).....0

Tuanzebe 9 (og)
Diarra 32
Talbi 72

Att: 46,370

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	24	16	5	3	46	17	53
Man City	24	14	5	5	49	23	47
Aston Villa	24	14	4	6	35	26	46
Man Utd	24	11	8	5	44	36	41
Chelsea	24	11	7	6	42	27	40
Liverpool	24	11	6	7	39	33	39
Brentford	24	11	3	10	36	32	36
Sunderland	24	9	9	6	27	26	36
Fulham	24	10	4	10	34	35	34
Everton	24	9	7	8	26	27	34
Newcastle	24	9	6	9	33	33	33
Bournemouth	24	8	9	7	40	43	33
Brighton	24	7	10	7	34	32	31
Tottenham	24	7	8	9	35	33	29
Crystal Palace	24	7	8	9	25	29	29
Leeds	24	6	8	10	31	42	26
Nottm Forest	24	7	5	12	24	35	26
West Ham	24	5	5	14	29	48	20
Burnley	24	3	6	15	25	47	15
Wolves	24	1	5	18	15	45	8

CYCLING

EUROPEAN TRACK CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS, KONYA VELODROME, TURKEY Men's: Points Race: 1 Tim Teutenberg (Ger), 2 Conrad Haugsted (Den), 3 Jasper De Buyst (Bel) **Selected Others:** 4 Ben Wiggins (Gbr), 10 Matti Dobbins (Irl) **Time Trial:** 1 Joseph Truman (Gbr) 57.541secs, 2 Etienne Oliviero (Fra) 58.078, 3 David Peterka (Cze) 58.355 **Selected Other:** 20 Maximilian Fitzgerald (Irl) **Team Pursuit:** 1 Denmark 3mins 42.330secs, 2 Switzerland 3:47.033, 3 Great Britain. **Women's: Elimination Race:** 1 Lotte Kopecky (Bel), 2 Victoire Berteau (Fra), 3 Lea Teutenberg (Ger) **Selected Others:** 11 Aoife O'Brien (Irl), 18 Lucy Nelson (Gbr), 19 Imogen Wolff (Gbr) **Team Pursuit:** 1 Great Britain 4mins 02.808secs, 2 Germany 4:05.448, 3 Italy 4:09.961 **Selected Other:** 7 Ireland.

TENNIS

WTA MUBADALA ABU DHABI OPEN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—1st rd: S Kartal (Gbr) bt C Bucsa (Spa) 6-3 7-6 (10-8).
WTA TRANSYLVANIA OPEN, CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA—1st rd: E Raducanu (Gbr) bt G Minnen (Bel) 6-0 6-4.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Carabao Cup Semi-Final Second Leg
Arsenal (3) v Chelsea (2) (8pm)..... (Live on ITV 1)

Sky Bet Championship
Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday.....
Hull v Watford .....
Portsmouth v Ipswich.....
Sheffield Utd v Oxford Utd .....

Sky Bet League One
Barnsley v Northampton .....
Burton v Doncaster.....
Port Vale v AFC Wimbledon (7pm).....

Sky Bet League Two
Barnet v Crewe .....
Bristol Rovers v Walsall .....
Harrogate Tn v Swindon .....
Notts County v Gillingham.....

Enterprise National League
Altrincham v Morecambe .....
Forest Green v Woking.....
Rochdale v Boreham Wood.....

William Hill Scottish Premiership
St Mirren v Hearts (8pm).....
(Live on Sky Sports Football)

William Hill Scottish Championship
Queen's Park v Ross County.....

KDM Evolution Trophy Quarter-Final
Arbroath v Airdrieonians.....

Enterprise National League North: AFC Fylde v Peterborough Sports, Chorley v Leamington, Curzon Ashton v Bedford Tn, Hereford FC v Marine, King's Lynn Tn v Southport, Macclesfield FC v Kidderminster, Radcliffe v Oxford City, Spennymoor Tn v AFC Telford.
Enterprise National League South: Chesham Utd v AFC Totton, Dover v Torquay, Ebbsfleet Utd v Hemel Hempstead, Enfield Tn v Hampton & Richmond, Hornchurch v Salisbury FC, Maidenhead Utd v Bath City, Weston-S-Mare v Worthing.
Southern Premier Central Division: Bury Tn v Leiston, Needham Market v AFC Sudbury, Quorn v Stamford, Real Bedford v Harborough Tn.
Isthmian Premier: Canvey Island v Chichester City, Chatham Tn v Brentwood Tn, Cheshunt v St Albans, Cray Valley (PM) v Welling, Dartford v Ramsgate, Dulwich v Whitehawk, Wingate & Finchley v Potters Bar Tn.
Northern—Premier Divison: Ashton Utd v Gainsborough Trinity, Cleethorpes Tn v Warrington Tn, Guiseley v Bamber Bridge, Lancaster City v Hyde Utd, Warrington Rylands v Rushall Olympic.

CRICKET

Third Twenty20 International: Sri Lanka v England (Pallekele, 1.30pm).

SNOOKER

WST World Grand Prix (Kai Tak Arena, Hong Kong, Hong Kong).

PREMIER LEAGUE

SUNDERLAND		BURNLEY
44%	POSSESSION	56%
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	0
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
420	TOTAL PASSES	517
1	CORNERS	2
0	OFFSIDES	2
12	FOULS	10
0	1 CARDS	3 0

REF: Paul Tierney. **ATT:** 46,370.

LINE-UPS

SUNDERLAND (4-2-3-1): Roefs; Mukiele, Ballard, Alderete (O'Nien 86), Reinildo; Sadiki, Diarra (Geertruida 79); Hume, Le Fee, Talbi (Mundle 79); Brobbey (Isidor 79).
BURNLEY (3-4-2-1): Dubravka; Esteve, Tuanzebe (Laurent 45), Humphreys; Walker, Ugochukwu, Florentino (Flemming 63), Pires; Edwards (Tchaouna 69), Anthony (Bruun Larsen 80); Foster (Broja 63).

MAN OF THE MATCH
HABIB DIARRA

SUN SHINING

Diarra stars as buoyant Black Cats stretch home run

SUNDERLAND 3
Tuanzebe 9 og, Diarra 32, Talbi 72
BURNLEY 0

BY **IAN MURTAGH**

SUNDERLAND wrote their name into the Premier League record books after becoming the first promoted sided to remain unbeaten in their opening 12 home games.

The Stadium of Light has been a fortress for Regis Le Bris' men, who are now the only top-flight side not to lose a game in front of their own fans.

And there was little chance of relegation-haunted Burnley succeeding where so many have failed before them once they fell behind after just nine minutes, when Habib Diarra's shot went in off Axel Tuanzebe.

Diarra stretched the lead before half-time and Chemsdine Talbi rounded off a comfortable win with a stunning third in the 73rd minute.

The win hauls the Black Cats back into the top half of the table. And while European qualification may remain a long shot, they're now just four points off the magical 40 points mark Le Bris believes will guarantee safety.

What is more, they proved emphatically they can win without inspirational skipper Granit Xhaka, who is out for several weeks. It was quite a night for Diarra, Sunderland's record signing, who has been a peripheral figure due to injury and playing in the AFCON tournament with eventual winners Senegal.

Not only did he have a hand in the first goal, Diarra opened his Sunderland account on 32 minutes to leave the Clarets with a mountain to climb.

On his first start since August, Diarra had been quick to make his mark.

Running on to Brian Brobbey's clever flick, he raced into the box with his shot deflecting off Tuanzebe, totally wrongfooting ex-Newcastle keeper Martin Dubravka.

Sunderland continued to have the upperhand and Enzo Le Fee tested Dubravka with a low drive before Diarra stretched the lead.

Nordi Mukiele has been a productive supply line from the right this season and when his centre came in, Diarra pounced at the second attempt with a shot Dubravka got a hand to but could not keep out.

Burnley may have gone over three months without a league win but arrived having drawn five of their past eight games.

So it certainly was not in boss Scott Parker's gameplan to concede twice before half-time and it was no surprise when he hauled off Tuanzebe, who has struggled to handle the robust Brobbey, at the break.

Sunderland rarely got out of third gear in the second half but Burnley lacked the quality to seize the initiative.

Indeed, it was the Black Cats who threatened again on 64 minutes when the excellent Brobbey turned sharply inside the box forcing Dubravka into a full-length save, before Talbi lashed in from 25 yards to seal victory.

ALL ROVER FOR ISMAEL AT TROUBLED BLACKBURN

BY **CAMERON WINSTANLEY**

VALERIEN ISMAEL has left his position as head coach of Blackburn by mutual consent.

Ismael (left) joined Rovers in February 2025 but leaves with the club in the Championship relegation zone after eight games without a win.

Blackburn were beaten 1-0 by high-flying Hull on Saturday, leaving them three points from safety. Tony Mowbray and Slaven Bilic (right) are reportedly the leading contenders to replace Ismael, who steered Rovers to seventh in the Championship last season – missing out on the play-offs by just two points on the final day. The club also revealed his assistant Dean Whitehead has also left by mutual consent.

Coach Damien Johnson has been placed in temporary charge.

Problems at Blackburn extend beyond the pitch, with growing anger among fans and boycotts of matches in protest at the owners.

Rovers face a crucial week, hosting rock-bottom Sheffield Wednesday tonight before visiting Carrow Road on Saturday to face a Norwich team just four points ahead of them.

Elsewhere, Hull boss Sergej Jakirovic believes Watford's managerial change has actually made his side's job harder tonight.

The high-flying Tigers take on managerless Watford, who saw Javi Gracia quit at the weekend.

Jakirovic said: "It's a little difficult to prepare because we don't know who will be in charge."

PAIN GAME Jean-Philippe Mateta

WINDOW STRESSING

Mateta left in limbo as his Italian job gets cancelled

BY **JOHN CROSS**

JEAN-PHILIPPE MATETA saw his dream deadline day move to AC Milan collapse.

The Crystal Palace striker was left in limbo after the Italian giants pulled out of a £30m move following extra medical checks.

Mateta, 28, has been nursing a knee issue and underwent an initial medical, but AC Milan wanted extra tests and then pulled the plug on deadline day.

It was a hammer blow for Mateta who expected to leave Palace in this window and has been at the centre of several transfer bids.

Nottingham Forest had a £35m bid rejected by Palace last week, while Juventus also wanted to do a deal on the basis of an initial loan with an option to make it permanent in the summer.

But Juventus did not revisit the deal after AC Milan pulled the plug to leave Mateta with no option of going back to Palace.

Mateta has 18 months left on his contract and Palace were ready to cash in to help them push through a club record £48m move for Wolves striker Jorgen Strand Larsen.

Despite the Mateta deal falling through, Palace continued to press ahead with the Strand Larsen deal and completed a move late on. Strand Larsen, who signed a four-and-a-half year deal, said: "As soon as I heard there was interest, it's something I wanted to jump on.

"I feel like it's what I need and hopefully what the club needs as well. I'm here to bring energy, goals and to try and do the best for the club."

Palace weren't done there but saw a move for Dwight McNeil on loan from Everton with an obligation to buy for £20m fail to beat the clock. The Toffees themselves dipped into the loan market, leaving it late to bring in Tyrique George from Chelsea.

Wolves were forced to use deal sheets in an attempt to get the signing of Angel Gomes over the line last night, but did get Adam Armstrong done.

Armstrong joins on a permanent move from Southampton with Wolves paying £7m for the striker.

England midfielder Gomes, who made four appearances under Lee Carsley for the Three Lions, was set to make the move to Molineux on loan from Marseille.

Sunderland took their spending spree since winning promotion past £170m with a £17m swoop for Anderlecht winger Nilson Angulo.

He effectively comes in as a straight replacement for Simon Adingra who has joined Monaco on loan with a view to a permanent summer move.

Sunderland had to wait for Adil Aouchiche to complete his move to Schalke, which triggered the two subsequent deals.

Forest completed the signing of full-back Luca Netz from German outfit Borussia Monchengladbach.

ON THE MOVE Jorgen Strand Larsen

WHIZZKID Max Dowman

Gunners dial it up to Max

BY **JOHN CROSS**

ARSENAL boss Mikel Arteta scoured the market for a last-minute replacement for Mikel Merino but decided to stick instead of twist.

Spanish midfielder Merino, 29, is to undergo surgery on a fractured foot and faces a race to play again this season.

Despite talk Newcastle midfielder Sandro Tonali was offered to the Gunners – denied by the player's agent – there were no incomings at the Emirates on deadline day.

And that could open the door for teenage sensation Max Dowman.

The 16-year-old can play in different roles in midfield in a No.8 position and as a playmaker.

With Merino likely to be out until April and a congested fixture list, that may give Dowman opportunities.

The Gunners also have quality in reserve, which is why they refused to contemplate a last-minute panic deal.

Dowman has already made his senior debut and only last week Arteta compared him to former Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi.

Spurs nab kid James

TOTTENHAM have beaten Arsenal to the signing of Hearts wonderkid James Wilson.

Spurs pipped their rivals to the striker, 18, after agreeing a six-month loan deal with an option to buy in the summer.

Arsenal had been in talks about a six-month loan but Spurs gained a small piece of revenge after they missed out on Eberechi Eze last summer.

Wilson, who has already been capped by Scotland, will join Spurs' Under-21s set-up after scoring eight goals in 45 games for Hearts.

PHILLIPS A BLADE

BY **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

MANCHESTER CITY'S forgotten man Kalvin Phillips has been loaned to Sheffield United.

He was signed for £45m in 2022 but illness and injury saw Phillips, 30, get off to a bad start.

Phillips was then criticised by manager Pep Guardiola for returning from the World Cup "overweight" in December 2022. He has appeared just once this season, for seven minutes of the Carabao Cup win over Huddersfield in September.

The Blades new boy remains under contract at the Etihad until the summer of 2028, having signed a six-year deal when he joined from Leeds.

City winger Joel Ndala, 19, has joined Sheffield Wednesday on loan until the end of the season.

SWITCH Phillips

SARR BLUE AGAIN

BY **JOSHUA PECK**

MAMADOU SARR has been recalled from his loan spell at Strasbourg and will work under Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior once more.

Sarr (inset) was Rosenior's captain at Strasbourg after he returned to the French club in the summer, following a permanent move to Stamford Bridge. The Senegal central defender, 20, had made 18 appearances for Strasbourg after injury issues, but will spend the rest of the campaign at Chelsea.

Sarr has made a solitary appearance for the Blues, appearing off the bench against Esperance at the Club World Cup in July.

Infantino stands by Trump peace prize

FROM BACK PAGE

Northern Ireland. Offending them was "not my intention", he said.

"It was meant to be more of a light-hearted remark to show that actually the World Cup in Qatar was a celebration, was a peaceful event and everyone came together in a peaceful way.

"So having English fans – real fans – coming in a peaceful way and enjoying and cheering for their team is something that is fantastic."

The 55-year-old also said he had been wrong to refer to English people who, "Just go and riot around the world" at football matches as fans, instead labelling them "criminals".

Infantino also addressed the backlash FIFA faced after awarding US president Donald Trump (below) with the organisation's inaugural peace prize.

"Whatever we can do to help peace in the world, we should be doing it," Infantino said.

He claimed that Trump 'objectively' deserved it.

Infantino added: "He was instrumental in resolving conflicts and saving thousands of lives."

RODRI RISKS BAN OVER REF RANT

FROM BACK PAGE

striker appeared to kick through the back of Marc Guehi's leg and, even after a VAR review, the goal stood. Spurs went on to earn an unlikely point, to dent City's title hopes.

City had VAR decisions go against them last month in matches with Newcastle, Manchester United and Wolves.

Manager Pep Guardiola (right) vented his fury after the match, and Rodri has now appeared to question whether officials were being fair.

Rodri said: "I know we won too much and the people don't want us to win, but the referee has to be neutral. And for me, honestly, it's not fair. I never speak about referees. I respect their job massively, but they have to pay attention to these things. He's kicked the leg. It's so clear."

The FA are expected to take a dim view of the comments and could hit Rodri with a charge of 'questioning the integrity of match officials'.

United are working it out, says Sesko

BY **SIMON PEACH**

BENJAMIN SESKO says things are coming together for spirited Manchester United after his stoppage-time strike extended Michael Carrick's winning start.

Carrick returned to the club last month as head coach until the end of the season and has already matched predecessor Ruben Amorim's best Premier League run of three straight victories.

After beating top two Manchester City and Arsenal, United dug deep to secure a 3-2 win against Fulham on Sunday. Match-winning substitute Sesko (below) told MUTV: "We work as one. I mean, we always have done, but you know it's bits by bits.

"And yeah, it just came together, especially off the ball. You can see the work rate from everyone. It's benefitting us with the ball and off the ball, and, in the end, also with the results."

Asked where this goal ranks in his career, the 22-year-old summer signing from RB Leipzig said: "It's quite high, especially in the Premier League when everything is way faster than in Germany."

BIG-GAME

ON TOP OF THE WORLD Chelsea lift the Club World Cup last summer

ARSENAL v CHELSEA
EFL Cup, Semi-final
3-2 on aggregate, KO 8pm

Blues boss Rosenior backs his group of winners to do it again and shoot down the Gunners for a final place

ONLY DEFEAT Rosenior's side were beaten 3-2 by Arsenal in the first leg

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

CHELSEA boss Liam Rosenior insists his "winners" can send Arsenal crashing out of the Carabao Cup tonight.

The Blues lifted the UEFA Conference League and FIFA World Club Cup last year while in-form Enzo Fernandez helped Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar in 2022.

The Gunners are top of the Premier League and have cruised through to the last 16 of the Champions League with a 100 percent record.

But they have not lifted silverware since the 2020 FA Cup, with Bukayo Saka the only survivor of that squad.

Arsenal will defend a 3-2 opening leg win at The Emirates tonight – Rosenior's only defeat in charge of Chelsea.

But Mikel Arteta's side have lost their last four two-legged semi-finals, including a 4-0 humbling by Newcastle last season. And highlighting Chelsea's recent record of winning big games, Rosenior said: "Enzo Fernandez has won a World Cup, as well as the group winning two trophies last year.

"They can play in big games, they can perform in big games, and it is definitely a big game.

"Talking about what Arsenal or Mikel Arteta have or haven't done, that's not my concern."

Arsenal have extended their lead at the top of the table to six points but their home crowd – and the players – have shown signs of nerves as they seek a first title since 2004.

Asked if Chelsea can play on that, Rosenior replied: "We'll see. We'll go and play our game."

Jose Mourinho won the League Cup at Chelsea in 2004-05 (below) – the first of eight trophies during his two spells at the club.

Rosenior is on a run of five wins since replacing Enzo Maresca and is two wins away from winning a trophy.

"I'll be really honest, all this proof of me being right for the job or not, I don't really care," he said.

"I'm here to do the job. If we get to the final, it's great for Chelsea Football Club that we're in the final, it's not about me. I will prove in time whether I'm worthy or not, but it's not at the forefront of my mind."

Rosenior showed Mourinho-like decisiveness to make three half-time substitutions against West Ham on Saturday to secure a second comeback of the week.

He had made seven changes from the Champions League team in Napoli and again raised questions about the strength of his squad outside the regular starting XI.

But Rosenior claimed: "I don't have a best XI. I never have in all of the clubs that I've worked with.

"Why? Because of the physical demands of the Premier League or Ligue 1 or the Championship now with 46 games. You need a squad, and you need to use the players in the correct way to challenge over the course of the season.

"I'm just getting to know the players. I try to pick the right starting team, but I also try to pick a bench that will give us the right finishing team as well.

"So far I have to say the substitutes in every game that we've played have made a huge impact. It's not down to my tactical stuff, there's some part of that, but it's down to their mentality to come on and help the team."

"I'm here to do the job. If we get to the final, it's great for Chelsea Football Club that we're in the final, it's not about me"

HUNTERS

FINAL PUSH
Rosenior wants his players to summon up their winning pedigree to see off Arsenal

ARSENAL (4-3-3): Kepa; Timber, Saliba, Gabriel, Calafiori; Zubimendi, Rice, Odegaard; Madueke, Gyokeres, Martinelli
CHELSEA (4-2-3-1): Sanchez; James, Fofana, Chalobah, Cucurella; Fernandez, Caicedo; Neto, Palmer, Garnacho; Joao Pedro
REF: Peter Bankes
TV: ITV/Sky Sports

EURO STARS
Cole Palmer & Co with the Europa Conference League trophy

CHAMPION
Fernandez with the World Cup trophy

No quick fix for Estevao

CHELSEA teen star Estevao will not be pressured to return to the club after flying to Brazil on Saturday.

The 18-year-old (top) returned home on compassionate leave to deal with a personal matter and is unlikely to be available for tonight's Carabao Cup semi-final second leg at Arsenal.

He is in his first season in England after moving from Sao Paulo.

Asked about a possible return date, Blues boss Liam Rosenior said: "I don't know yet. He's a young kid who has come and been magnificent.

"He's going through a really difficult time for personal reasons, he's on compassionate leave.

"I won't put any pressure on. It has to be right for him and he has to feel like he's in the right place to perform."

ARSENAL 'EXCITE EUROPE'

FROM BACK PAGE

the players confidence, trust, and belief. It unlocks something in you, and then you want more," he said.

"It's a cycle that you want to repeat constantly. We still have to do that. Some of them, they've never done it, so it's always a first time."

Asked whether there is a belief among his players that they can go all the way this time, not just in the League Cup but the Premier League too, Arteta said: "The group is really convinced that we have the ability to do it."

When the Gunners were beaten by Manchester United, boos were heard at the Emirates.

But Arteta (below) dismissed the idea that the crowd gets anxious if his side fails to start games strongly enough.

"I don't expect that," he said. "We have some incredible moments together, and we have an opportunity to go to Wembley all together. So we have to push all the energy and optimism that we can, all together. Take that, and be in Wembley together."

Further scrutiny has centred on Arsenal's style of play. But Arteta, citing reaction around Europe, said: "I hear completely the opposite. All around Europe, that we are the most exciting team – the most goals, the most clean sheets. Maybe I have different resources."

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express.co.uk/sport

ITOJE NEEDS FAN-TASTIC SUPPORT

Borthwick calls on Twickenham to show love for grieving skipper

FROM **ADAM HATHAWAY** in Girona

STEVE BORTHWICK expects Twickenham to raise the roof for England skipper Maro Itoje when he appears off the bench in their Six Nations opener against Wales on Saturday.

Itoje (left) has been named as a replacement – for just the fourth time in 98 England Tests – after arriving late to camp in Girona last week following his mother Florence's funeral in Nigeria.

The second row arrived in Spain a day after the rest of the squad and Borthwick has decided to keep him up his sleeve until later in the game this weekend. And the

TURN TO PAGE 55, COLUMN 1

Cup can spark a golden age

GO EZE: Eberechi Eze is put through his paces in training

ARSENAL CHELSEA
LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL
Second Leg
Agg 3-2
KO 8pm

BY **TOM CANTON**

MIKEL ARTETA believes winning the Carabao Cup can unlock a "cycle" of silverware for his Arsenal side.

The Gunners entertain Chelsea in the second leg of their semi-final tonight, having won the first leg 3-2 at Stamford Bridge. If they win, they will reach their first final since 2020, when Arsenal beat Chelsea in the FA Cup for Arteta's only trophy as Gunners manager.

But the Emirates boss is hoping that lifting the League Cup this season can herald a sustained period of success. Arteta said: "The enjoyment that brings

TURN TO PAGE 59, COL 2

FIFA CHIEF SORRY FOR BRIT INSULT

BY **NATHAN RIDLEY**

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has apologised for making a cheap joke about the behaviour of British football fans.

Infantino (below) was criticised last month after saying: "For the first time in history... no Brit was arrested during a World Cup.

"Imagine! This is something really, really special."

His comments were in reference to the 2022 World Cup, held in Qatar.

England and Wales featured at the tournament, with the Swiss-born chief firstly apologising to fans of Scotland, Wales and

TURN TO PAGE 58, COLUMN 1

IT'S NOT FAIR!

Rodri risks ban after backing up Pep's blast at referees by questioning their neutrality

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

RODRI is facing an FA charge and possible ban after suggesting referees have an agenda against Manchester City.

The Ballon d'Or-winning midfielder hit out at the officials in the wake of his side's damaging 2-2 draw at Tottenham on Sunday.

The Spain star was seething after Dominic Solanke's first goal for Spurs was allowed to stand. The

TURN TO PAGE 58, COLUMN 1

ROD RAGE: Rodri reacts after (right) Pep outburst

DIARRA ON TARGET AS CATS PURR

SUNDERLAND 3
BURNLEY 0

MATCH REPORT: PAGE 56

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

		9			7	6	1	5
6			2			8		
		8			9	7	2	4
	9			2			6	1
3			5					7
7	4			8			5	
		3				5		
	8			6	2			3
4	6	1	9			2		8

MEDIUM

		3		9	6		5	
7			4			6		
9	8		5			2		
6		9			4	8		
				7			4	
		4			1	3		2
5		8			2		1	6
					5			3
	3		7	6		4		

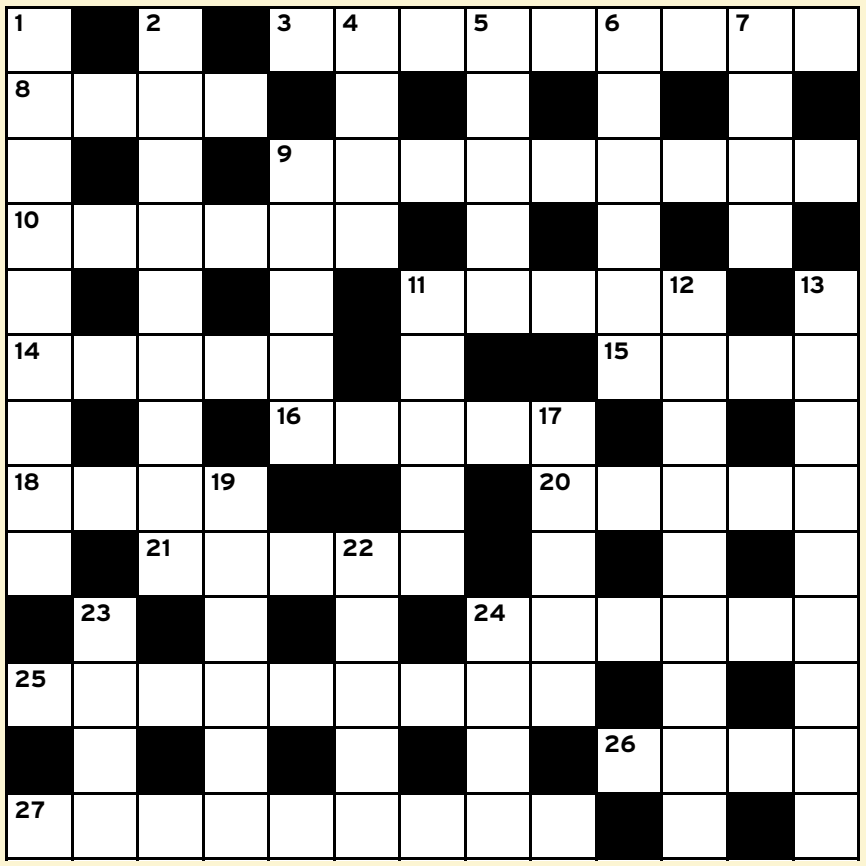
DIFFICULT

5			6		3			
		8			9	5		
	1							4
	3	7			1		2	
			7		5			
	6		3			7	8	
4							3	
		3	9			8		
			5		7			6

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
3 Truce (9)
8 Uproar (4)
9 Competitor (9)
10 Habit (6)
11 Concise (5)
14 Cleanse (5)
15 Speed (4)
16 Pulsate (5)
18 Money (4)
20 Assault (5)
21 Nominated (5)
24 Deadly (6)
25 Involved in darkness (9)
26 Debatable (4)
27 Profane (9)

DOWN
1 Steep cliff (9)
2 Compel (9)
4 Space (4)
5 Bury (5)
6 Offer (6)
7 Munch (4)
9 Desire (5)
11 Stripped (5)
12 Lie (9)
13 Air (9)
17 Wearied (5)
19 Indigenous (6)
22 Anaesthetic (5)
23 Measure (4)
24 Loaned (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **16 mins** Good: **12 mins** Excellent: **8 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

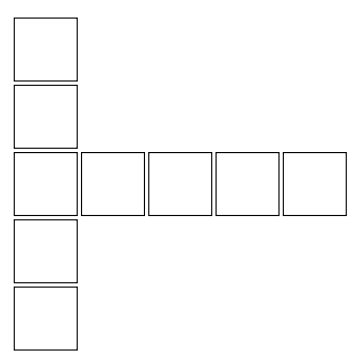
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

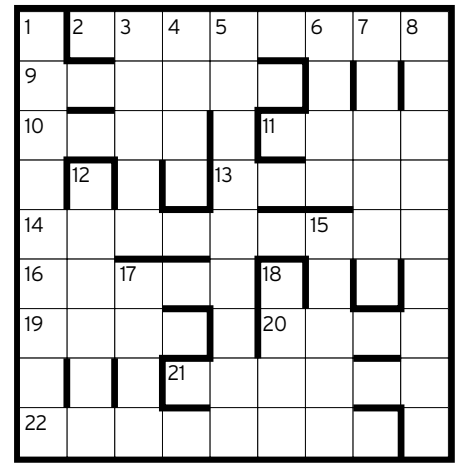
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow

A E H O R R T W X



SMALL CROSSWORD



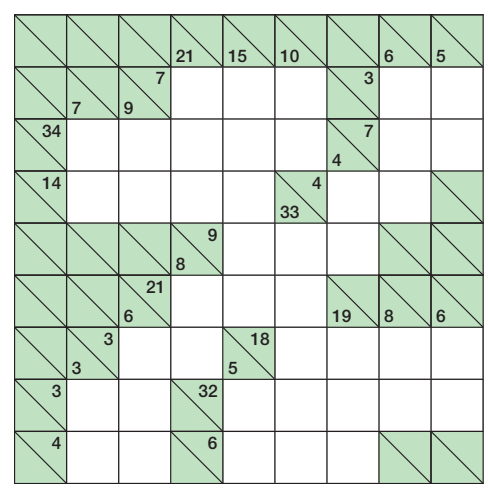
ACROSS
2 Informs (8)
9 Heavenly figures (6)
10 A planet (4)
11 _ Picoult, author (4)
13 Simona _, Romanian tennis player (5)
14 Dutch city (9)
16 Hooded snake (5)
19 Avid (4)
20 Look sullen (4)
21 Posture (6)
22 Ruth aged (anag.) (8)

DOWN
1 Filled to capacity (3-6)
3 Monsters (5)
4 Exam (4)
5 Condition of being unwell (3,6)
6 Revered person (4)
7 Captivate (6)
8 Fellow sailors (9)
12 Single-celled organism (6)
15 Male honeybee (5)
17 Boyfriend (4)
18 Argument (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

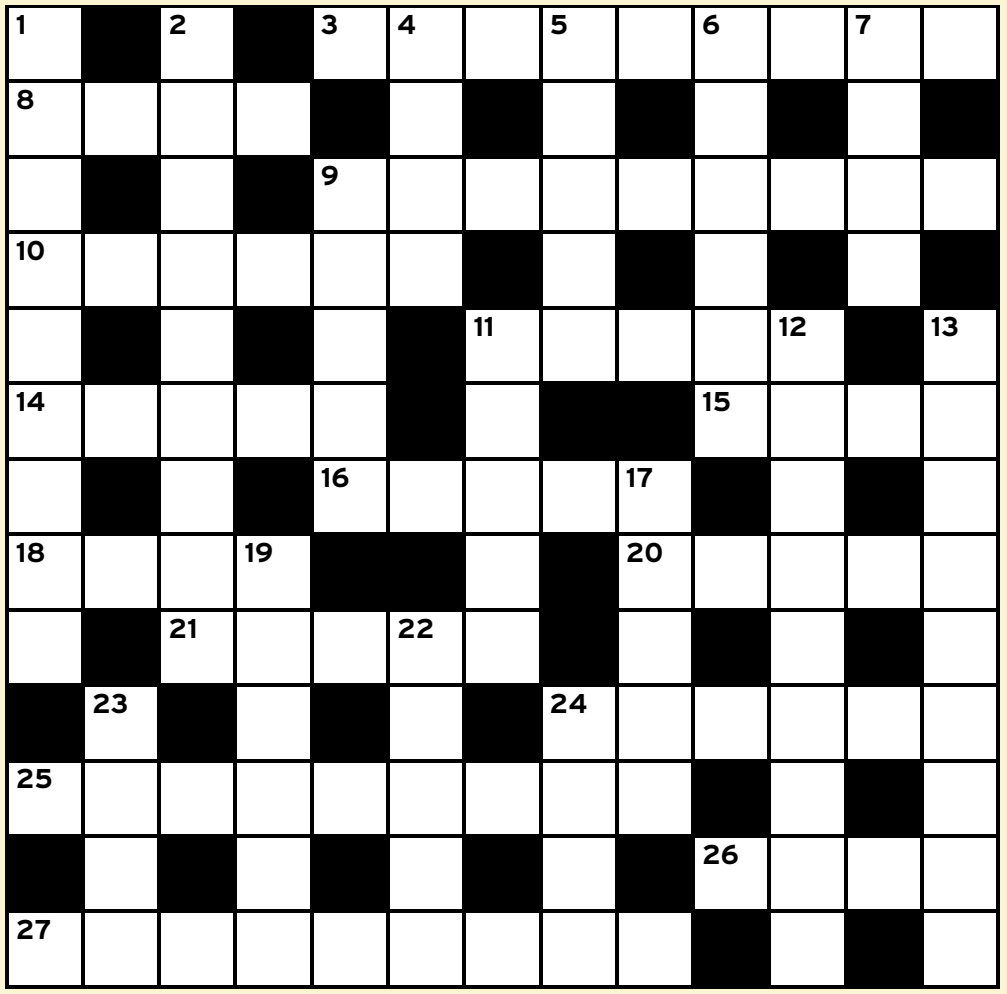
3 'The ---', 1960 Billy Wilder film that won a Best Picture Oscar (9)
8 --- Tasman, 17th-century Dutch seafarer after whom Tasmania is named (4)
9 & 16 Baseball team that won the 1991 World Series (9,5)
10 Old World primate such as the Olive ---, Papio anubis (6)
11 State capital of Oregon, US (5)
14 The --- shark, Ginglymostoma cirratum, is nocturnal (5)
15 Italian unit of currency replaced by the euro (4)
16 See 9 Across
18 Nicolas, director of the films Insignificance and Bad Timing (4)
20 City that was capital of Japan from 794 to 1868 (5)
21 Small civet of Asia, Viverricula indica (5)
24 Imre, 1948 Olympic men's hammer champion (6)
25 1985 novel by Len Deighton (6,3)
26 Celine, singer who won the 1988 Eurovision Song Contest for Switzerland (4)
27 Alexander, author and critic who was the model for George S Kaufman and Moss Hart's character Sheridan Whiteside (9)

DOWN

1 Members of a secret political society formed around 1811 which engaged in the struggle for Italian unification (9)
2 Actor who starred as Tarzan in the film Tarzan And The She-Devil (3,6)
4 1957 novel by Vladimir Nabokov (4)
5 Ancient Moorish town in Andalucia, Spain famous for its bullring (5)
6 Marine bivalve such as the edible ---, Mytilus edulis (6)
7 International organisation including Canada and Britain that was established in 1949 for purposes of collective security (4)
9 Choral composition used in the Roman Catholic service (5)
11 Bird such as Gallinago gallinago having a long straight bill (5)
12 Slobodan, former president of Serbia who died in 2006 (9)
13 Musical instrument invented by Adolphe Sax (9)
17 Form of clay-pigeon shooting in which targets are hurled from two traps at varying speeds and angles (5)
19 Large Indian crocodilian also called a gharial (6)
22 A member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno (5)
23 City in Nevada, US noted as a gambling and divorce centre (4)
24 Small amphibian such as the smooth ---, Triturus vulgaris (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
Service provider Spoke Ltd -
Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

2		8				3	9	
			2	6	9			
9				8			2	5
	5		9		6			
	2	7						9
	1		5				4	2
7								
1		3			4			
		2		9	1			

	2	8				1		3
			7	1	4			
1	7			2				4
			6		2		3	
						4	6	
2							5	
	7							8
9		3				2		5
8		2				4	3	

				7	2			
			3					
				6	4			

		6		8	1			
3		8			7			
7								
	6		3				7	8
	9	3						4
	7		6		2			
6				3			1	2
			2	9	5			
2		5				9	3	

		6		8	1			
3		8			7			
7								
	6		3				7	8
	9	3						4
	7		6		2			
6				3			1	2
			2	9	5			
2		5				9	3	

	2	8				1		3
			7	1	4			
1	7			2				4
			6		2		3	
						4	6	
2							5	
	7							8
9		3				2		5
8		2				4	3	

WORD BUILDER

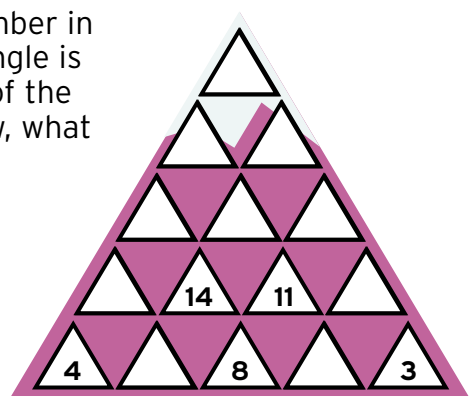
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

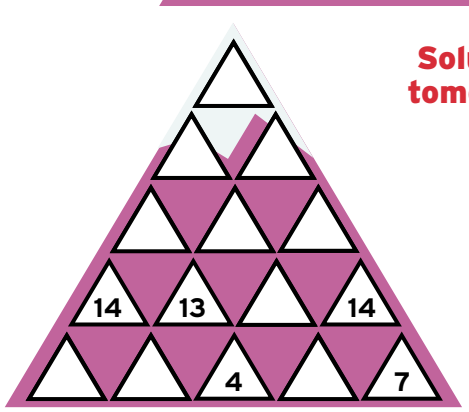
Solution tomorrow

1	□□□	1 Gave food to
2	□□□□	2 Ran away
3	□□□□□	3 Meadow
4	□□□□□□	4 Violin
5	□□□□□	5 Lazed
6	□□□□	6 Food store
7	□□□	7 Cover

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?





Solution tomorrow

SMALL CROSSWORD

Across:
1 Make fun of,
7 Aviary,
9 Rats,
10 Yodel,
12 Sago,
13 Attention,
14 Rear,
16 Eat up,
18 Iota,
19 Bandit,
20 Lemon sole.

Down:
1 Margaret,
2 Kite,
3 Easter,
4 Frying pan,
5 Nod,
6 Oregon,
8 Elongate,
11 At ease,
12 Stains,
15 Dodo,
17 Tim.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH

V	O	V	T	C	A	N	O	P	Y	V	J	T	L	K
E	P	K	R	R	A	C	F	K	P	S	L	Q	F	O
U	P	E	P	F	E	R	D	G	E	C	K	O	W	V
A	F	E	R	N	S	E	J	P	K	C	R	N	R	Z
Y	B	L	K	M	P	X	A	T	W	O	I	S	R	O
C	U	B	I	O	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	A
H	T	I	T	C	P	K	J	R	K	F	V	H	P	M
T	T	Z	I	U	H	W	V	I	A	S	I	Z	N	P
O	E	A	A	J	C	E	T	D	D	S	L	O	T	H
U	R	M	A	Y	U	U	N	I	T	E	I	Z	C	I
C	F	A	K	J	O	O	H	O	H	I	H	O	E	B
A	L	Z	C	G	C	C	R	B	Q	O	R	A	F	I
N	Y	O	A	A	R	R	G	X	D	T	G	N	J	A
K	V	N	N	O	A	S	B	A	T	L	B	V	Y	N
T	M	A	H	P	S	N	M	Y	A	W	B	E	E	S

WORDS RELATED TO RAINFORESTS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

AGOUTI ● ALGAE ● AMAZON
AMPHIBIANS ● ANACONDA ● APES
BAT ● BIODIVERSITY ● BUTTERFLY
CANOPY ● FERNS ● GECKO ● LICHEN
ORCHIDS ● PARROT ● SLOTH
TOUCAN ● TREE

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Base, **3** Marriage, **8** Oven, **9** Conceive, **11** Astonishment, **13** Cereal, **14** Temple, **17** Inconsistent, **20** Unvoiced, **21** Cite, **22** Solitude, **23** Less.
Down: 1 Buoyancy, **2** Shelter, **4** Arouse, **5** Recompense, **6** Alien, **7** Ewer, **10** Antagonist, **12** Restless, **15** Precise, **16** Ascend, **18** Naval, **19** Fuss.

WORDSEARCH

E	N	Y	N	O	N	N	A	H	S	C	V	Y	V	V
Y	T	A	R	U	R	Q	Z	U	L	O	E	Y	L	E
V	A	P	G	R	K	S	U	Y	U	F	O	G	S	I
I	W	T	V	A	A	O	D	F	F	Z	D	U	B	G
S	Q	A	J	B	L	E	W	I	V	R	O	W	O	N
S	I	T	C	H	E	N	L	C	C	A	U	F	Y	B
X	O	M	A	E	L	Y	O	F	V	H	L	E	N	K
V	Y	R	L	W	M	D	I	P	E	A	L	H	E	P
I	P	K	D	R	I	S	I	I	U	M	E	I	C	J
W	M	V	E	C	W	F	Q	M	P	N	W	R	D	V
T	H	E	R	N	I	D	A	Z	A	A	R	X	T	N
A	N	K	R	E	E	A	E	E	V	C	O	G	E	Q
L	P	T	T	S	D	N	R	G	F	V	D	N	G	M
G	O	J	J	I	E	O	H	U	R	V	Y	C	F	K
J	T	L	O	L	W	Y	N	C	F	T	E	L	T	U

ARROW-WORD

		T		O		R			M		T			
S	T	R	I	P		E	S	T	A	T	E			
	R	E	D	T	A	P	E		L	E	T			
L	I	M	O	S		L	A	T	T	E	R			
	B	O	L		H	I	M		E	T	A			
	A	R	I	A		C	E	A	S	E				
	L		S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	S		M	
L		P	E	S	O			E			E	R	A	S
E		A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	E	D		R	N
I	O	N		A	F	A	R		O	R	A	T	I	O
	P	A	R	K		G	O	V	E	R	N		A	W
J	A	M	I	E			N	A	S	A		S		B
	L	A	P		B	A	S	S		N	E	C	T	A
				R	E	V		T		D	R	A	B	L
					T	E	L				S	M	I	L
						R	U	S	T	L	E		L	
T	R	A	C	H	E	A				T	I	P	S	
		E	G	R	E	S	S			A	S	I	A	
S	P	E	E	D	S			G	R	I	N	T		

SUDOKU EASY

6	2	5	7	8	4	3	1	9
7	4	9	5	3	1	6	8	2
1	8	3	9	2	6	4	7	5
9	3	8	1	7	2	5	6	4
4	1	6	8	9	5	7	2	3
5	7	2	6	4	3	8	9	1
2	5	1	4	6	8	9	3	7
3	6	7	2	5	9	1	4	8
8	9	4	3	1	7	2	5	6

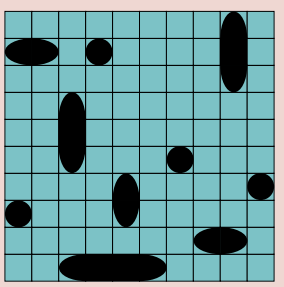
SUDOKU MEDIUM

9	5	8	3	7	4	1	2	6
3	2	1	5	6	8	9	7	4
4	6	7	9	1	2	5	3	8
8	1	2	7	4	6	3	5	9
7	9	4	1	5	3	8	6	2
5	3	6	8	2	9	4	1	7
2	4	5	6	9	1	7	8	3
6	7	3	4	8	5	2	9	1
1	8	9	2	3	7	6	4	5

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

8	1	5	6	7	9	4	2	3
4	2	3	1	8	5	6	7	9
7	9	6	2	4	3	1	5	8
3	6	2	5	1	7	8	9	4
9	8	7	3	2	4	5	1	6
5	4	1	9	6	8	2	3	7
1	5	9	4	3	6	7	8	2
2	7	4	8	9	1	3	6	5
6	3	8	7	5	2	9	4	1

BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		9	1			1	3	
	1	7	6	4	3	8	2	5
	3	1		2	1		4	1
			2	1		2	1	
		2	1		2	1		
	2	1		2	1		3	1
	7	4	6	8	3	1	2	5
		3	1			3	1	

WORD BUILDER

Toe, Note, Tenor, Cornet, Recto, Torc, Cot

TARGET

EXCITABLE
abet, able, albeit, bail, bait, bale, balti, bate, beat, beet, belie, belt, beta, betel, bile, bite, bleat, cable, celeb, celibate, citable, EXCITABLE, ibex, table

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Improve, Beef, Gnat, Teenager, Opaque, Trifle, Scrawl, Heresy, Anorexic, Bard, Heel, Rainbow.
Down: Kidnap, Confer, Spit, Quarrel, Jostle, Luxury, Cement, Hectic, Brazier, Baby (clue), Cereal, Shrewd.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 27, 29, 34, 36, 38, 40.
Across: Square, Leg, Banjo, Offend, Show, Handicap, Textbooks, Tweezers, Gawk, Jasper, Thief, Shy, Hybrid. **Down:** Shortages, Upfront, Empty, Ewe, Rung, Excel, Amber, Haven, Hazy, Ilk, Logic, Scamper, Gangplank.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: HAILS
Down: DAISY

Puzzles

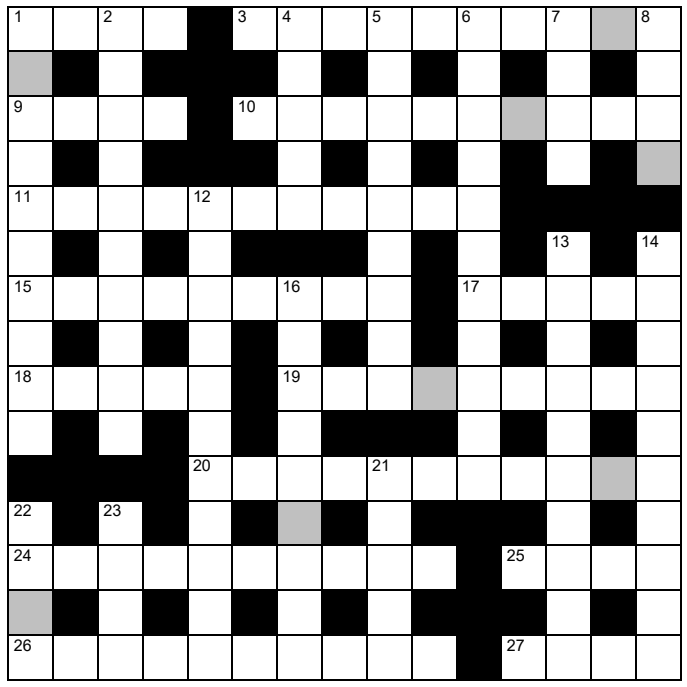
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Rabbit that's worth something across the pond (4)
3 Warwickshire town equal to sporting event (5,5)
9 Play is in from playwright (4)
10 Siding with change, taking wind to be unpleasant (10)
11 Diverting the plane in Spain is massive (11)
15 Dishes are appearing on the beach (7-2)
17 Memorise renal layout (5)
18 Blade that's reversible (5)
19 Changing to gentler glasses (9)
20 Embodiment of trendy flower (11)
24 Everyone getting sacked, cheerful and excited (3,5,2)
25 Aunt is mad for fish (4)
26 Agree tenor worked as a fruit supplier (6,4)
27 Network of hems, interwoven (4)

DOWN

1 Stinging telegram as a form of protection (6,4)
2 Firm with friend, having writers to refund (10)
4 Painful swelling, not initially an association (5)
5 Significant pickpocket seen at funfair (3,6)
6 Amnesia developed about room for literary collection (11)
7 Histrionics about a group (4)
8 Immense embrace, by the end (4)
12 Creating a Mohican is terrifying (4-7)
13 Survive, tiny, just before deadline (4-6)
14 Ten, unheard, scrambled below (10)
16 Singer given something precious by crown (9)
21 Unexceptional without trendy path (5)
22 County sauce (4)
23 False assortment, not including small insect (4)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, February 3, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by February 4 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

LAST FRIDAY'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Clobbering, 6 Bond, 10 Flat out, 11 Whatnot, 12 Shock wave, 13 Nadir, 14 Deign, 15 Executive, 17 Hesitated, 20 Input, 21 Doric, 23 Macchiato, 25 Angular, 26 Alerted, 27 Ears, 28 Animatedly. **DOWN:** 1 Cuffs, 2 Oratories, 3 Block and tackle, 4 Rat race, 5 Nowhere, 7 Owned, 8 Deterrent, 9 Malnourishment, 14 Dehydrate, 16 Implanted, 18 Tamarin, 19 Declaim, 22 Roger, 24 Oddly. **Prizeword:** Buttress

TARGET

L	A	R
E	T	R
I	L	Y

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

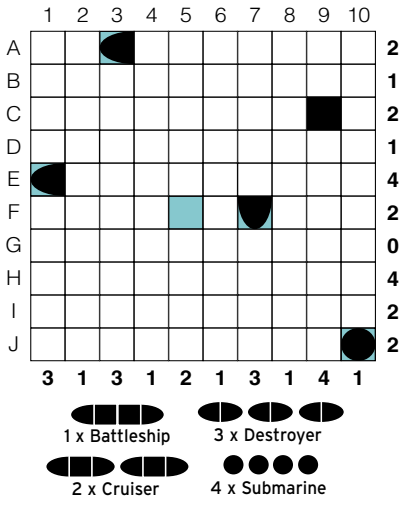
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 29; **very good** 44; **excellent** 58 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 36 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

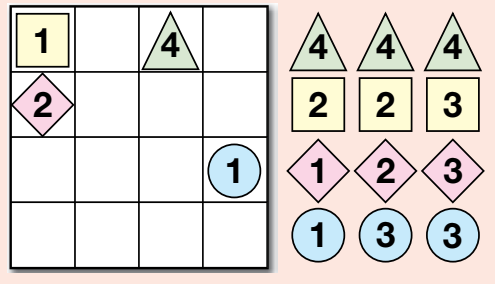
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A	7	14	6	21	10	18	20	29	6	31	14	32	39
B													
C	20	8	34	36	23	30	2	5	34	20	7	1	3
D													
E	23	35	20	24	3	15	36	8	36	5	21	25	31
F													
G	30	10	19	38	7	28	33	1	40	37	12	25	1
H													
I	10	14	33	29	35	18	21	27	37	18	37	15	5
J													
K	34	8	37	1	34	9	10	26	26	11	23	39	18
L													
M	2	36	12	28	36	27	34	39	10	24	1	4	37
N													
O	27	31	36	8	19	36	12	23	3	37	2	35	4
P													
Q	11	29	10	15	38	35	5	14	21	27	36	11	36
R													
S	33	20	9	9	36	2	19	11	22	1	13	37	19
T													
U	28	12	15	18	37	21	22	8	37	39	36	27	2
V													
W	17	10	36	6	19	15	1	9	16	36	2	18	37
X													
Y	35	19	29	24	2	31	16	35	19	15	7	5	40
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						Y							■	■					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
		G							H										

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow

DIFFICULTY: 5/10; **TARGET:** 19 mins; **CLUE:** Container tax.

A	■	4	10	22	26	21	■	2	4	25	3	6	■
B													
C	4	■	■	14	■	12	■	4	■	12	■	■	21
D													
E	8	■	12	17	23	3	10	6	26	12	24	■	3
F													
G	5	14	22	16	■	■	25	■	■	9	26	25	24
H													
I	14	■	26	■	10	11	4	12	13	■	19	■	26
J													
K	25	12	19	■	22	■	1	■	3	■	11	14	1
L													
M	■	■	26	10	12	24	■	11	26	24	6	■	■
N													
O	5	14	24	■	13	■	16	■	15	■	1	12	7
P													
Q	4	■	4	■	13	26	3	2	3	■	4	■	4
R													
S	9	26	6	3	■	■	6	■	■	26	22	26	13
T													
U	26	■	3	18	20	14	26	13	26	6	3	■	6
V													
W	22	■	■	26	■	13	■	14	■	3	■	■	3
X													
Y	■	25	4	6	11	3	■	1	4	1	17	4	■
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
M								K		N			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

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